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The Kids' Book of Freedom



Freedom Tower Plaza

Memorial Tribute

**A Graphic Coloring Novel on the Events of
September 11, 2001**

The Freedom Tower is a symbol of the
American spirit and the
pursuit of the American dream.

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**It's America
By Hossam Ganby**

WE SHALL NEVER FORGET 9/11

Illustration by Hossam Ganby, Inc.



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Cari & Holly



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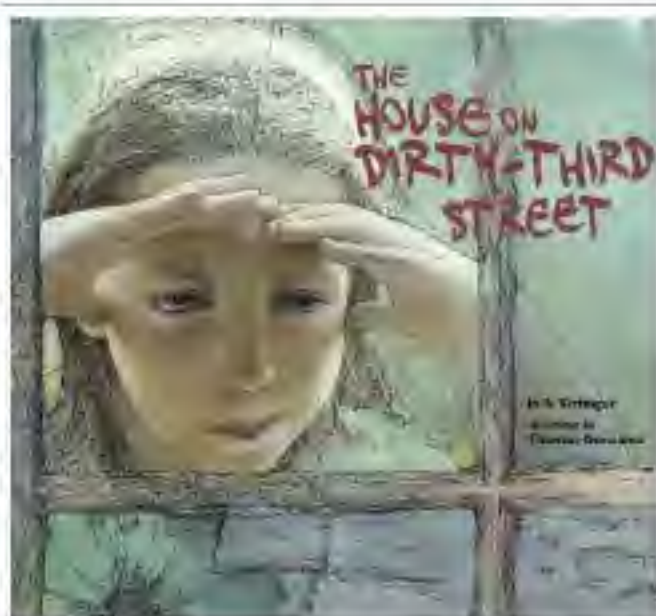
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The House on Dirty-Third Street by Jo S. Kittinger Illustrated by Thomas Gonzalez

Posted by hollybookscoops on April 16, 2012



We are all about fresh starts, here in America. Fresh starts have been forced upon many families as a result of the real estate crash, massive job-losses, or even after the loss of loved ones whether from divorce, death or any number of unfortunate circumstances. The House on Dirty-Third Street is a glimpse into the resiliency of the human spirit. Gonzalez's illustrations gradually fill with more and more color as life gets better and better for a struggling little family starting over. There is a truth to the fact that the help they receive comes after the Mother and her daughter first reach out to help their neighbors, and then are humble enough to ask for help at the corner church on Sunday. Soon, their yard and home are filled with people giving service, reaching out to lift their neighbors. It reminded me of the times when communities would gather for barn raisings and accomplish something in a brief amount of time that would be almost impossible to achieve independently.

Magic is real. You can see it all around you in the wonderful acts of kindness that go on in our schools, neighborhoods and churches. Ugly things can be transformed, communities can be changed. Life does get better. We create a wonderful synchronicity when we come together for a worthwhile cause. Kittinger's nameless character expected starting over would bring adventure and possibly buried treasure. In her journey of beginning again, she really does find treasure- the treasure of a changing and caring community!

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This entry was posted on April 16, 2012 at 8:12 am and is filed under Picture Books, Uncategorized. Tagged: acts of kindness, massive job losses, Picture Books. You can follow any responses to this entry through the RSS 2.0 feed. You can leave a response, or trackback from your own site.

3 Responses to "The House on Dirty-Third Street by Jo S. Kittinger Illustrated by Thomas Gonzalez"

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The Dirty Truth About Street Drugs in America



by [Phil The Gain](#)
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Street Drugs and The Truth

Most people will bullshit you about street drugs. I am actually honest about this here. In fact I am being honest at great personal risk because there are plenty of people out there who would persecute me personally for saying the points I'm bringing up in this article. But what I'm saying will be truth and I am standing by that. I'm sure the government, particularly the moralists would choose to classify this internet page as "harmful for your minors" under their own new censorship laws and regulations, and would like to shut me down and probably jailed. This page is not damaging to minors, it's handy to minors. Actually, telling minors make believe opinions about drugs is what's really damaging to minors.

What I would like to make clear to all who read this is that people make choices for their lives that will affect their identity and who they'll become. If you make the proper choices you may have a much better life than if continuously making terrible ones.

You may make all the perfect decisions and nevertheless still be killed in a vehicle accident because another person ran a red light, but for anyone who is smart about what one does then the odds are at your advantage.

The greatest thing a teenager would need to learn is saying NO and meaning it.

These choices are only yours alone and in addition, it's your responsibility in making good choices and making your life meaningful. You may have experienced a hard start in life so you'll have to do the job harder in climbing way up the ladder of life to get success. Ultimately an individual becomes who you choose to become and you can decide to be better than what you might have been raised to become. The choices an individual make are in the end yours and you should be responsible and ponder your choices carefully. If you smoke cigarettes, you'll be a smoker. When you or your partner get pregnant, you are going to become a father or mother. If you get totally hooked on Meth, your outcome is being a drug abuser.

It's your choice, so if you choose to get all drugged out, it's your failing, But...



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It's your choice, so if you choose to get all drugged out, it's your failing, But...

If you would like to become great then you may be great, even if you come from tough times and places. The difference between people who become great and people who don't is that great people take control of their lives, take responsibility for their decisions, by means of pure force and will, looking on the future, and by means of self discipline, move themselves up and also achieve greatness.

Everyone of you who read this could do the same thing. It's your existence. If you mess it up, it's all on you. It's your failing.

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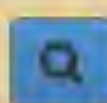
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New Orleans named America's Dirtiest City: What others are saying

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By Times-Picayune Staff

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on June 14, 2011 at 1:30 PM

Travel + Leisure magazine recently named New Orleans **America's Dirtiest City**, according to 2010 data.



Eliot Kamenitz, The Times-Picayune archive

Mounds of Mardi Gras trash is all that's left of carnival as SDT workers begin to plow on Bourbon Street Ash Wednesday in 2009.

Here is what others are saying about that survey:

Philadelphia lands No. 2 spot on dirty-city list

(Philadelphia Inquirer)

New York Is Dirty, But Not the Dirtiest

(The Village Voice)

Travel + Leisure: Atlanta is 9th dirtiest (Atlanta Business Chronicle)

New Orleans is America's Dirtiest City (bestofneworleans.com)

America's dirtiest cities include popular tourist destinations (New York Daily News)

These Are America's Filthiest Cities (Defamer Australia)

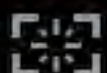
Anchorage makes survey of dirtiest American cities

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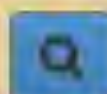
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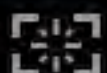
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Algiers ferry parade 2013

Fay Faron, president of the Friends of the Ferry and also the "Ferry Godmother," wore her swim wear while riding across the Canal St.-Algiers ferry during their parade on Wednesday, June 5, 2013 in New Orleans.

Supporters of the ferry showed up in mass to help keep the ferry in operation. Many people wore swim wear as a symbolic gesture that they might have to swim across the river if there is no ferry. (Photo by Chris Granger, Nola.com | The Times-Picayune)

Chris Granger, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune



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لا تكتب الصور، خاصة بنوعها، بل فقط الصور

Older man next to a dustbin at a dirty street is looking into the distance, USA, Brooklyn (BWI-BLWS145172)



BWI-BLWS145172 - (c) - G. Vockel
Caption: Older man next to a dustbin at a dirty street is looking into the distance, USA, Brooklyn, New York.
Image Code: BWI-BLWS145172. Photographer: G Vockel. Collection: Blickwinkel. Rights Managed

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Police use dirty tricks to round up hundreds of peaceful Occupy Wall Street protesters as Wall Street criminals bribe NYPD

Oct 1st, 2011 @ 09:12 pm / Madison Ruppert

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By Madison Ruppert

Editor of End the Lie



"Snapshot of protesters walking on Brooklyn Bridge. Most are staying on OK pedestrian path, but hundreds went into traffic."
(Credit: Brian Steiter)

Today roughly 500 peaceful protesters marching in opposition to the corporatist takeover of America and the robbery of the United States by the banking and Wall Street elite were rounded up and arrested thanks to suspect tactics employed by the NYPD.

While many argue against the Occupy Wall Street protests based on partisan politics, the heavy union involvement, and the role Marxist organizations have played in the demonstrations, I think this is seeing the forest for the trees.

Regardless of what you think about those who organized the protest and the involvement of SEIU and other unions, you must realize that we are all being robbed and oppressed by the same people.

Furthermore, everyone must take notice of the tactics the NYPD has been using to attempt to shut down these protests.

Even if you disagree with the Occupy Wall Street message, would you like to experience these same oppressive and highly questionable tactics when you demonstrate for your cause of choice?

One important fact to note is that the NYPD just received a massive donation from none other than the Wall Street criminal oligarchs themselves: JPMorgan Chase.

According to a press release posted on JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s [official website](#), they "donated an unprecedented \$4.6 million to the New York City Police Foundation."

Quite serendipitous timing for a gift which "was the largest in the history of the foundation" which elicited "profound gratitude" from the New York City Police Commissioner, Raymond Kelly.

Clearly the Wall Street oligarchy is doing the only thing they know: attempting to pay off the NYPD to side with them over the people they swore an oath to protect and serve.

Unfortunately the Occupy Wall Street movement can't counter JPMorgan's contribution, but at least it shows that the Wall Street criminals are running scared and resorting to nothing short of bribery to gain the allegiance of the NYPD.

I wonder what it would take for the [NYPD](#) to realize that JPMorgan is stealing their futures and the futures of their





Dirty Laundry: Musings of a Former News Man

The Blog of Griffin Scott

America's Ugliest & Saddest Main Street

Posted on April 8, 2013

1

America's ugliest and saddest main street isn't on any map.

You won't find it on Google, or with your GPS or even in the Yellow Pages.

It's not a small town, not one of the thousands of tiny burgs between the coasts that have seen their populations plunge the last few decades as the younger generation left, following the jobs to large cities.

Those dying towns are sad, their tiny downtown and main streets abandoned and boarded-up, mile after mile of cracked sidewalks, overgrown lots and faded paint.

We have no shortages of towns like that in my neck of the woods, Lake Providence, Tallulah, Chatham, Delbi, the list goes on and on and on...

But those places, those towns that once defined 'Americana', that's not where you'll find the ugliest and saddest main street in America.

You won't find it in our larger cities either, places that have seen their manufacturing base disappear almost as quickly as their population. Jackson Mississippi, Dayton Ohio, Birmingham Alabama.

They're sad for sure, the incredible ruin that is modern day Detroit, Michigan is the greatest example but there are others; Mardi Gras and the most recent Super Bowl aside, New Orleans has never, in fact, may never recover from the hurricane that almost destroyed it in August 2005.

But these urban centers aren't where you'll locate America's ugliest and saddest main street.

It's not a quiet place, this depressing US thoroughfare. It's quite busy in fact, open 24 hours and lit up like Las Vegas.



A liquor store next door to a barber shop

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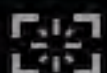
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DIRTY BURGER POP-UP

Fresh Aussie fashion talents L'America, Amber Sceats Jewellery and Insted We Smile are in store.

[More info](#)



PREVIEW

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DIRTY BURGER POP-UP

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When: Friday, 15 March - Thursday, 25 April

Where: Dirty Burger Pop-Up, 88 Gould St, Bondi Beach, NSW 2026

How much: FREE

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Sydney's love affair with all things pop-up continues at Bondi Beach for the tail end of summer at the Dirty Burger Pop Up, with fresh Aussie fashion talents L'America, Amber Sceats Jewellery and Insted We Smile.

For those of you in the dark here is a quick rundown of what is filling the racks: L'America looks like Erin Wasson's bedroom floor after a shopping spree through SoHo, Amber Sceats' necklaces could put Debbie Harry to shame, and Insted We Smile is the label of Mr Bondi himself, surfer Luke Stedman i.e. updates for any Sydney guy's T-shirt collection will be aplenty.

All three labels are undeniable 'hipster' haunts, but don't let that put you off. Plus, Stedman's logo is a smiling anchor — if that does not warrant a bus ride east what does?

The store is trading seven days and is open from now until April 25. Opening hours are Mon-Wed 10am-6pm, Thu-Sat 10am-7pm and Sun 11am-5pm.

By Ruby Lennon

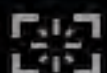
Will You Be Attending?

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Maybe

No

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10:01 AM



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Tonight: Dirty Bingo in the Meatpacking District

Where: 8 Little West 12th Street [\[map\]](#), New York, ny, United States, 10014

March 27, 2007 at 4:29 PM | by [markj](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)



Back when [America's Most Wanted Restaurant](#) reviewer [Frank Bruni](#) sat down at [Paradou](#), one of the few nearly-indigenous (i.e. opened before the [Hotel Gansevoort](#)) Meatpacking district eateries, he mentioned Provençal food, bare-bones décor, and impressive Kobe-style beef tartare, but he left out the fact that this place queues up a monthly game of dirty bingo.

According to the restaurant's website:

This is definitely not your Grandma's bingo. This is definitely not the bingo they play on cruise ships or poolside at family resorts. This is DIRTY BINGO!!!

The rules are the same as regular Bingo. The prizes are definitely of a more adult nature. And we learned from the last DIRTY BINGO that we have a randy bunch on our hands, so the gifts will be of a more, shall we say, directly applicable nature. These prizes will definitely keep you hot and bothered on those chilly early spring nights.

Join us on **TUESDAY, MARCH 27TH, at 8PM** as our fabulous Canadienne, Genevieve, calls the numbers. Prizes provided by [Kiki De Montparnasse](#).
Price: \$2 per card per game.

Champagne cocktails, fabulous Canadienne women, Bruni-approved French food and the opportunity to win a crystal-bejeweled vibrator or some other Kiki gift. Um, did we mention this is taking place tonight?

If you go, [photos please](#)

[Photo: [thatgirl\(sab\)](#)]

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Chodorow Offers Eat Reward For

The Tunnel People That Live Under The Streets Of America



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Did you know that there are thousands upon thousands of homeless people that are living underground beneath the streets of major U.S. cities? It is happening in Las Vegas, it is happening in New York City and it is even happening in Kansas City. As the economy crumbles, poverty in the United States is absolutely **exploding** and so is homelessness. In addition to the thousands of "tunnel people" living under the streets of America, there are also thousands that are living in tent cities, there are tens of thousands that are living in their vehicles and there are **more than a million public school children** that do not have a home to go back to at night. The federal government tells us that the recession "is over" and that "things are getting better", and yet poverty and homelessness in this country continue to rise with no end in sight. So what in the world are things going to look like when the next economic crisis hits?

When I heard that there were homeless people living in a network of underground tunnels beneath the streets of Kansas City, I was absolutely stunned. I have relatives that live in that area. I never thought of Kansas City as one of the more troubled cities in the United States.

But according to the **Daily Mail**, police recently discovered a network of tunnels under the city that people had been living in...

Below the streets of Kansas City, there are deep underground tunnels where a group of vagrant homeless people lived in camps.

These so-called homeless camps have now been uncovered by the Kansas City Police, who then evicted the residents because of the unsafe environment.

Authorities said these people were living in squalor, with piles of garbage and dirty diapers left around wooded areas

The saddest part is the fact that authorities found dirty diapers in the areas near these tunnels. That must mean that babies were being raised in that kind of an environment.



Unfortunately, this kind of thing is happening all over the nation. In recent years, the tunnel people of Las Vegas have received quite a bit of publicity all over the world. It has been estimated that more than

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LifeWise is inspired by Ghandi's famous quote, "be the change you wish to see in the world".

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The Tunnel People That Live Under The Streets Of America



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Did you know that there are thousands upon thousands of homeless people that are living underground beneath the streets of major U.S. cities? It is happening in Las Vegas, it is happening in New York City and it is even happening in Kansas City. As the economy crumbles, poverty in the United States is absolutely **exploding** and so is homelessness. In addition to the thousands of "tunnel people" living under the streets of America, there are also thousands that are living in tent cities, there are tens of thousands that are living in their vehicles and there are **more than a million public school children** that do not have a home to go back to at night. The federal government tells us that the recession "is over" and that "things are getting better", and yet poverty and homelessness in this country continue to rise with no end in sight. So what in the world are things going to look like when the next economic crisis hits?

When I heard that there were homeless people living in a network of underground tunnels beneath the streets of Kansas City, I was absolutely stunned. I have relatives that live in that area. I never thought of Kansas City as one of the more troubled cities in the United States.

But according to the [Daily Mail](#), police recently discovered a network of tunnels under the city that people had been living in...



must mean that babies were being raised in that kind of an environment.



Unfortunately, this kind of thing is happening all over the nation. In recent years, the tunnel people of Las Vegas have received quite a bit of publicity all over the world. It has been estimated that [more than 1,000 people live in the massive network of flood tunnels](#) under the city...

Deep beneath Vegas's glittering lights lies a sinister labyrinth inhabited by poisonous spiders and a man nicknamed The Troll who wields an iron bar.

But astonishingly, the 200 miles of flood tunnels are also home to 1,000 people who eke out a living in the strip's dark underbelly.

Some, like Steven and his girlfriend Kathryn, have furnished their home with considerable care – their 400sq ft 'bungalow' boasts a double bed, a wardrobe and even a bookshelf.

Could you imagine living like that? Sadly, for an increasing number of Americans a "normal lifestyle" is no longer an option. Either they have to go to the homeless shelters or they have to try to eke out an existence on their own any way that they can.

In New York City, authorities are constantly trying to root out the people that live in the tunnels under the city and yet they never seem to be able to find them all. The following is from a [New York Post article](#) about the "Mole People" that live underneath New York City...

The homeless people who live down here are called Mole People. They do not, as many believe, exist in a separate, organized underground society. It's more of a solitary existence and loose-knit community of secretive, hard-luck individuals.

The New York Post followed one homeless man known as "John Travolta" on a tour through the underground world. What they discovered was a world that is very much different from what most New Yorkers experience...

In the tunnels, their world is one of malt liquor, tight spaces, schizophrenic neighbors, hunger and spells of heat and cold. Travolta and the others eat fairly well, living on a regimented schedule of restaurant leftovers, dumped each night at different times around the neighborhood above his foreboding home.





As the White House has previously announced, Justin Timberlake (who will be making his White House debut), Al Green, Ben Harper, Queen Latifah, Cyndi Lauper, Joshua Ledet, Sam Moore, Charlie Musselwhite, Mavis Staples, and others will be performing at the exclusive event.

And so who will be paying for all of this?

You and I will be. Even as the Obamas cry about all of the other "spending cuts" that are happening, they continue to blow millions of taxpayer dollars on wildly extravagant parties and vacations.

Overall, U.S. taxpayers will spend **well over a billion dollars** on the Obamas this year.

I wonder what the tunnel people that live under the streets of America think about that.



By Michael

[View original article here](#)

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NEW YORK DIRTY PLACES



New York ,one of the biggest cities of the world, is one of the dirtiest cities of the United States of America. When we look at some streets of New York,we might think that we are in a "tier monde"country.New York has for several decades, the record of being a dirty city. The big population is one of the reason. Therefore ,this is not an excuse for the authority to do not do their job. Why so many subways are dirty? Or streets ,or neighborhood?Yes neighborhood that became dog's toilets or subway station which are rat's shelters.Subway fare is still climbing up but nothing can be done.

a great number of rats lives in the subway, nothing is really done to stop that infestation which is growing through the years.One day ,New Yorkers will find themself invaded by rats and wastes.



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themselves invaded by rats and wastes.



Believe it or not, this is New York.



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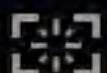
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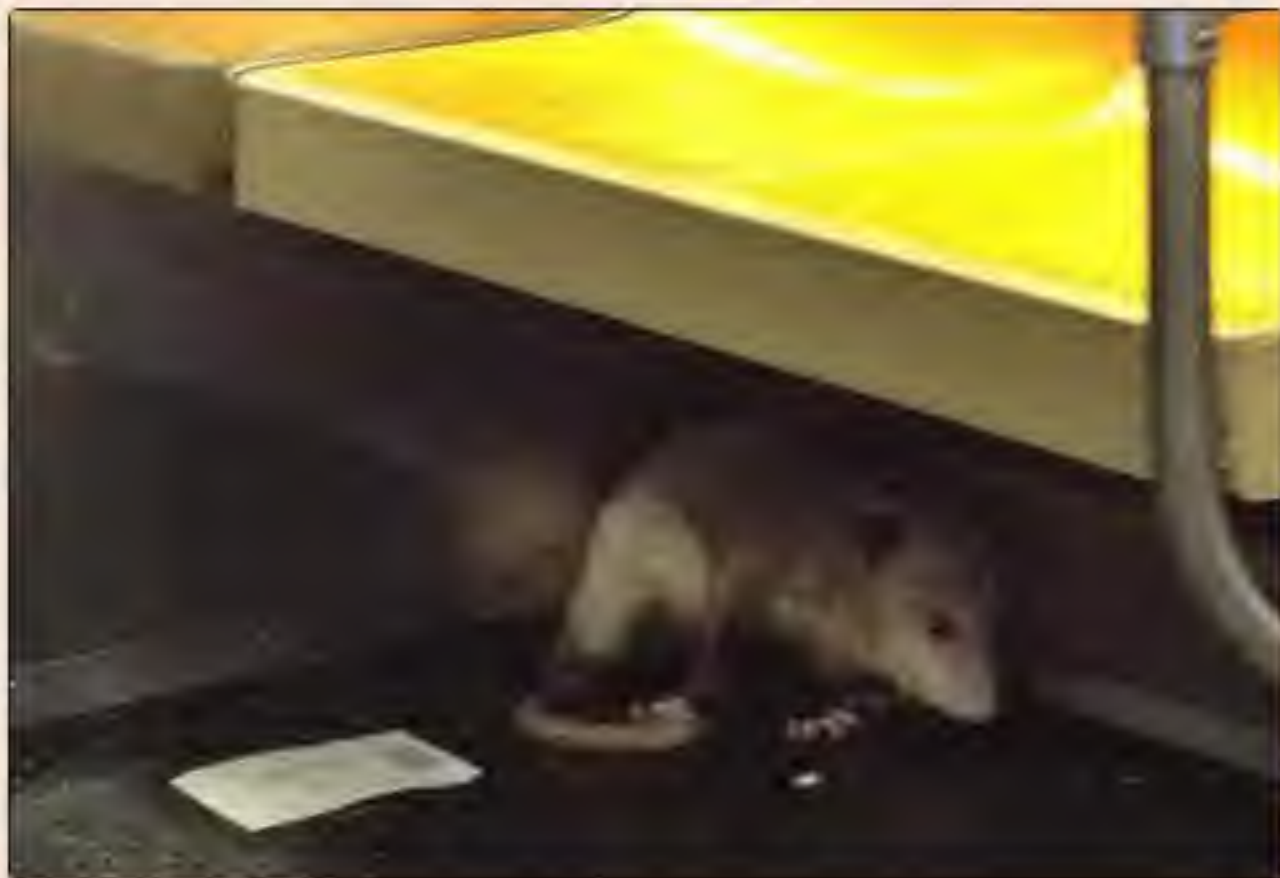


It's lunch time ,got to eat and go get the kids!





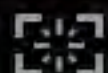
It's lunch time, got to eat and go get the kids.



New Yorkers pay for rat's fare.



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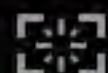
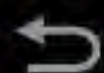


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Crony Capitalism – A Dirty Game

By Wiha Powell



Photo by Mario Tama, Getty Image

Spreading across America like a wildfire, the 'Occupied Wall Street Movement,' which has been protesting for several weeks, has now

sparked a worldwide movement. Their motto: "we the 99% are fed-up with the greed and corruption of the 1%". Their goal: "restoring the balance of democracy within the U.S."

Question, what is fueling this movement? Corporations are ruling and influencing the government, with the government providing bailouts, tax breaks, and other harmful and detrimental governmental policies alongside the corruption of the Federal Reserve.

Chanting the slogan – similar to that of the Tea Party – but undeniably for different reasons, "The banks got bailed out, I got sold out," the Movement appears to be anti-capitalist, believing that bank profits reflect the exploitation of the 99%. However, the problem Americans are facing is not totally 'capitalism', which is an economic system where private individuals or corporations own production and distribution. Rather, the problem stems from 'crony-capitalism', which is the portrayal of a capitalist society but is based on the close affiliation between private individuals or corporations and the government.

As a result, the success of the economy is determined by the success of the corporations, instead of basing it upon the free market and the law. The success of these corporations is solely reliant upon the favoritism shown by the ruling governmental party, which comes in the form of tax breaks, government grants and other incentives.

In 2008, under the Bush Administration, the Senate passed a Bill that gave a \$700 billion bailout to financial institutions.

The ulterior motive of the Bush Administration was to buy up \$700 billion in troubled assets, which was mostly



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NY LUNCHBOX | December 2, 2012, 10:23 p.m. ET
DIRTY BIRD TO-GO

Downtown Gets Dirty With Southern-Style Chicken

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By KATHRYN LURIE



Enlarge Image

Byron Smith for The Wall Street Journal

The fried chicken at Dirty Bird To-Go on Chambers Street

The new location of Dirty Bird To-Go is a bright addition to a quaint block of Chambers Street in TriBeCa.

Owner and founder Joseph Ciriello, who lives downtown, has been a fan of the neighborhood since coming to New York City more than 16 years ago. "Seeing the [World Trade Center] being rebuilt—I wanted to be a very small part of the rebuilding of the area."

When Mr. Ciriello opened the original Dirty Bird on 14th Street in 2006, he aimed to provide a healthier, local alternative to Manhattan's fast-food landscape.

"I knew that I wanted to eat local and organic, but at the same time I wanted comfort food," he said. "I also realized that busy New Yorkers needed a place where they could get all-natural, local and sustainable organic foods on the go."



Enlarge Image

Byron Smith for The Wall Street Journal

The mac & cheese, veggie rice and garlic kale side dishes

Dirty Bird's TriBeCa location is much larger than the 14th Street shop (which is little more than a storefront, space-wise), inviting its customers to have a seat and eat in instead of taking their food out.

The chickens the restaurants use are humanely raised in Pennsylvania Amish Country, and are veggie-fed and antibiotic-free, facts that are nonnegotiable for Mr. Ciriello.

"The kind of chickens we sell at Dirty Bird To Go is important to me," he said. "We like to source our chickens from producers who are transparent with the way the birds are raised. The quality of life of the chickens is something that we take very



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► Technology Shapes Kenyan Elections

The Internet and social media in Kenya, which played a central role in last year's elections by allowing Kenyans to question candidates, took on a new function Tuesday—spreading messages of peace to avert new bloodshed.



10 Disgusting Ways Your Company's Cafeteria Is Violating The Health Code

by Katya Wachtel and Courtney Comstock Feb. 24, 2011, 3:00 PM 16,508

Wall Street's dirty little secret: its cafeterias are absolutely disgusting.

Health inspectors visited bank cafeterias and found that people serving the food didn't wash their hands (in one case, there wasn't even soap), people were using tobacco or eating while working with your food, spoiled food, food that wasn't held at the proper temperatures -- the list goes on and it's gross.

Most disgusting of all, they found vermin like mice, cockroaches, and other flying insects.

[CLICK HERE TO SEE THE DISGUSTING HEALTH CODE VIOLATIONS INSIDE WALL STREET BANK CAFETERIAS >](#)



Our study is a result of the yearly health inspection that every restaurant in New York is required to complete scheduled for a surprise health inspection at least once a year, including cafeterias housed inside bank headquarters across the city.

What happens is Health Department inspectors check for compliance in food handling, food temperature, personal hygiene, facility and equipment maintenance, and the grossest part -- vermin control.

And in all of those "nice" cafeterias you eat every day, the inspectors find mice, cockroaches, germ hotbeds, and worse.

So if you are one of the none who is thinking *whatever, it's just a cute little mouse dropping in my pasta* -- don't, because the number of points given for a particular violation depends on the **extent of the health risk** it poses to the public.

In other words, it's not just a meaningless violation, it means your cafeteria is feeding you food that is potentially destroying your body from the inside out.

Violations fall into three categories:

1. **A public health hazard**, like failing to keep food at the right temperature to prevent the growth of bacteria. If the violation can't be fixed before the end of the inspection, the Health Department may close the cafeteria until the hazard has been removed. It carries a minimum of 7 points.
2. **A critical violation**, such as the presence of rodents, carries a minimum of 5 points.
3. **A general violation**, such as not properly sanitizing cooking utensils, carries a minimum of 2 points.

We've included each bank cafeteria's current score, their worst score ever, and their most disgusting violations.





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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2011

How Wall Street Hurts America

Occupy Wall Street is getting some bad press.

I mean, it's getting some *really bad press*. Especially from Regressive linchpin FOX News.

Famous reality denier Bill O'Reilly has declared that the protesters are jobless because "they don't want to work." According to Kimberly Guilfoyle, the movement is nothing but a bunch of useless people who "dirty the streets." Sean Hannity's response to the protesters is to talk over them, say they don't like freedom, and accuse them of destroying the country.

And really, these are just specific examples. Turn on the news and watch almost any coverage of Occupy Wall Street, and you hear the same thing over and over: they're dirty hippies who need to get a damned job.

Well let me tell you something: if they could *get* a damned job, they might not *be* there! If the economy hadn't been *wrecked* by billionaires and their corporations, then maybe people wouldn't be this angry! If those hyperwealthy that FOX News and their Republican cohorts keep calling "job creators" actually created some *jobs*, then maybe things wouldn't have reached this point!



Pictured: Dirty Useless People

But the economy *was* wrecked by these people. These "job creators" don't *want* to create jobs -- they'd rather sit on their money than "waste" it on employees. And so nearly one in ten Americans *can't get a job*.

Regardless of the facts, conservative newspeople and pundits argue over and over that Occupy Wall Street protesters must just not want to get a job, because anyone who wants a job can get one.

It's hard to figure out what goes on inside a Regressive mind, but it appears to be something like this: when the unemployment rate goes up, that just means America is lazier than usual. It's apparently got little to do with the economy. Because after all, even when some think the country's actually entering a depression, anyone who *wanted to work could*.

They're literally pointing at the the unemployed, the homeless, and the starving and saying, "The bad economy is their fault!" Well, it's not. You know who I point at? The banks, the hyper-rich corporations, and the billionaires.

This is *THEIR* fault.



The American "nobility" and FOX News spout off about the horrors of socialism anytime they want to scare their peasants into giving them more power and wealth. But these corporations and banks are the worst kind of socialists. The phrase "too big to fail" is the worst thing that's happened to our economy in recent times.

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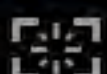
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**Jacob Greene**

Standing up against the tide of increasingly destructive politics in our nation.

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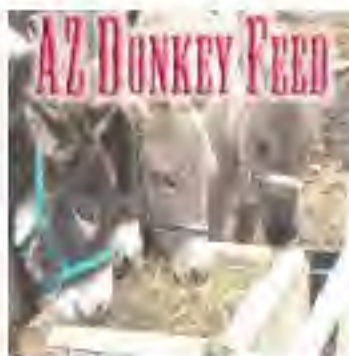
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America's 10 most 'hated' companies



by Pamela Powers Hannley



January is a month for "best" and "worst" lists. Media moguls gather at a trendy Manhattan watering holes, and, over dirty martinis, cook up lists to boost their sales.

Last week, the website **24/7 Wall Street** released its list of the 10 most hated companies in the US.

With their high levels of corporate stinginess, you'd think the **Papa**

John's, **Hostess**, **Applebee's**, **Denny's**, or **Wal-Mart** would be on it-- *but no*.

With nearly universal hatred of their private prison system, maybe **Corrections Corporation of America** (CCA) would be on the list-- *no*.

How about Koch Industries? Is it the most hate company in the US? Incredibly, *no*. TD Ameritrade-- whose CEO also tried to buy the 2012 elections? *NO*.

Who is the most hated company in the US according to 24/7 Wall Street? J.C. Penney. WTF?

To find out why Penney's is hated and who else is on the list, continue after the jump.

J.C. Penney? Really more "hated" than CCA? *Come on*.

Not one but two mom-and-apple-pie retailers-- Penney's and Sears-- made the 2012 most hated list. This is bullshit. Koch Industries, Wal-Mart, and CCA are OK-- but not Penney's, Sears, or Facebook? (Yes, with a gabillion users, Facebook has been on the "most hated" list for two years.) Apparently, 24/7 Wall Street didn't consider buying elections, making money off of millions of incarcerated citizens, or union busting all that bad. Instead, to come up with the **most hated list**, they looked at the success of product launches, return on investments, poor customer service, and layoffs. (OK, I agree with the poor customer service and layoff measures, but seriously, an poorly executed product launch gets you on the most hated list?)

Here is their rationale:

Nothing harms the long-term reputation of a company on Wall St. more than a steep, and often unexpected drop in its share value, particularly one that offers almost no chance of recovery. The stock prices of several companies on this list lost most of their value as they posted high double digits declines.

And **here are the specifics** on how they determined their choices.

Here is the 2012 list from 24/7 Wall Street:

1. J.C. Penney
2. Dish Network
3. T Mobile USA
4. Facebook
5. CitiGroup
6. Research in Motion
7. American Airlines



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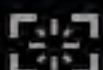
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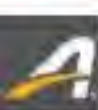


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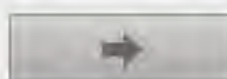


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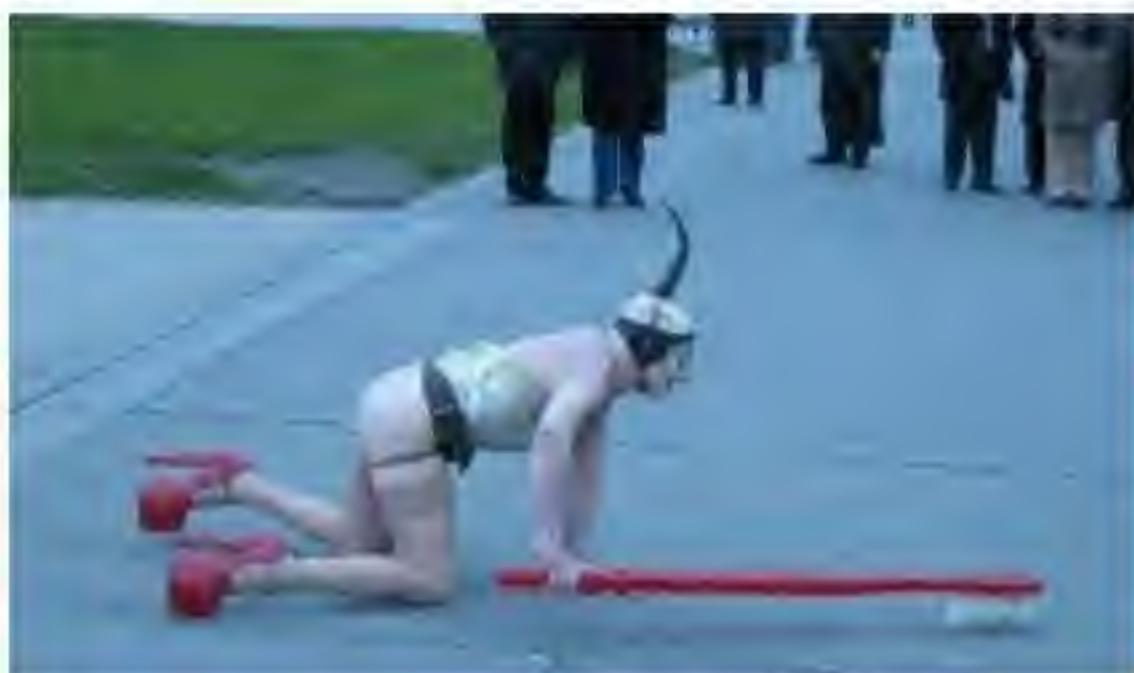


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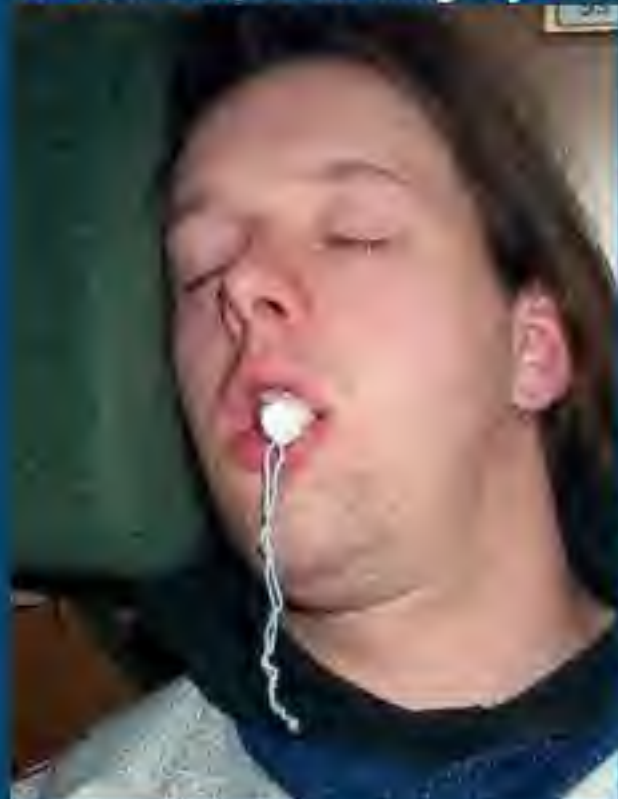
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15 Photos You DON'T Want Your Parents to See

by Edison Plaza and Matt Himmelman 2/18/13

Every [picture](#) tells a story. But sometimes the story is one you'd rather not share with your loved ones. Here are 12 photos that made their way into the hands of some very ashamed [parents](#).

1. Now son, if I've taught you anything, it's that tampons don't belong in your mouth. Also, get a haircut.



2. Jimmy, I hope you're going to clean that up when you regain consciousness.



3. We're going to the doctor right now mister.



4. I told you to set the table. Not to pass out on it.



5. Jeffrey, you have plenty of room in your apartment. Stop whining.

5. Jeffrey, you have plenty of room in your apartment. Stop whining.



6. How many times must we potty train you Samantha?



7. Well, at least she planned ahead.



8. Eliza, get out of there. That black bar isn't fooling anyone.



9. At least he's well dressed.





11. You're adopted.



12. Looks like Sarah finally found a boyfriend who shares her interests.



13. Your father and I are worried you're going to get stomach cancer.



14. I see those 12 years of gymnastics really paid off.



14. I see those 12 years of gymnastics really paid off.



15. Tanya, stop eating lobster. You know you have a severe shellfish allergy. Do you need me to bring you your epi-pen honey?



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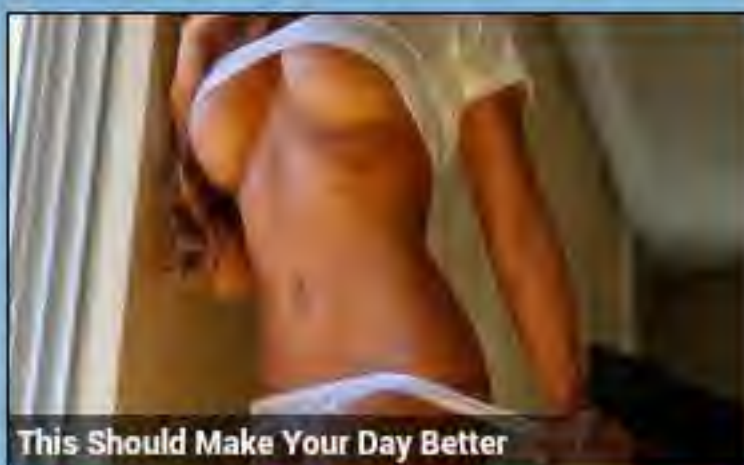
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21 Tuesday Jun
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Travel & Leisure Report – America's Dirtiest Cities

POSTED BY IGROUPTODAY IN [HOTEL NEWS](#), [TRAVEL NEWS](#), [HOSPITALITY NEWS](#), [DIRECT CONNECT](#), [TRAVEL NEWS](#)

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– Bourbon Street Trash

What makes a city dirty? What criterion is used to suggest that X city is dirtier than Y city?

Of course, visitors gauge "dirty" in a variety of ways: litter, air pollution, even the taste of local tap water.

This year's American State Litter Scorecard, published by advocacy group the American Society for Public Administration, put both Nevada and Louisiana in the bottom five—echoing the assessment of [T+L](#) readers who ranked Las Vegas and New Orleans among America's dirtiest cities.

Here are your American Dirtiest Cities (think of Ryan Sechrist delivering this to millions of TV viewers)

1. New Orleans (I love the smell of chlorine bleach that flows in the gutters on Bourbon Street)
2. Filthadelphia (It is pretty filthy)
3. LA (rightfully so)
4. Memphis (yes)
5. NYC – ranked #1 as the most popular tourist destination (I think Chicago and New York should be switched)
6. Baltimore
7. Las Vegas (ranked #2, if not #1, and those are the cities that stand on the corner and flip





Travel & Leisure Report – America's Dirtiest Cities

POSTED BY IGROUPTODAY IN HOTEL NEWS, TRAVEL NEWS, HOSPITALITY NEWS, DIRECT CONNECT, TRAVEL NEWS

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Lost City

18 JUNE 2012

BQE Service Road Gets Immigration Mural



Cars driving too fast between Atlantic Avenue and Hamilton Avenue on the BQE Service Road known as Hicks Street will now be treated to an oddly placed, and very large, mural on the history of Italian immigration in the South Brooklyn area.

As far as I can tell, the painting went up today. The paints and brushes were still on the sidewalk when I walked by this afternoon. There are five panels separated by painted pillars: immigrants gazing from a boat at the Statue Liberty; immigrants disembarking from a ship named after Christopher Columbus; American saint Mother Cabrini, who taught at the local Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Roman Catholic Church (the nearby Mother Cabrini Park is named for her); an image of Catholic education; and a unspecific domestic scene.

Nice. Particularly since it will remind people of the area's rich, and fast disappearing, Italian-America history. But the only people who are going to see it are the oddballs (like me) who sometime walk down dirty, dusty Hicks instead of the commercial strip Columbia Street or the picturesque Henry Street.



The original, running Jeremiah on the vestiges of Old New York as they are steamrolled under or threatened by the currently ruthless real estate market and the City Fathers' disregard for Gotham's historical and cultural fabric. Est. January 2006. Contact Me

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Lost City

03 APRIL 2009

Lost City's Guide to Boerum Hill



This is the eighth of Lost City's guides to the shards of living history and cultural potency that remain in various New York neighborhoods. The tours are published occasionally. Previous guides can be found along the right-hand navigation bar.

First off, let me say that I consider the western border of Boerum Hill to run straight down Smith Street. I know that there is some dispute about this. Some say it stretches to Court Street. But I suspect this is the work of real estate brokers who know the listing "Cobble Hill" will fetch them more money than "Boerum Hill." Furthermore, I don't know any merchant on the east side of Court who thinks they're part of Boerum Hill.

I am perfectly in accord with the other borders: State Street at the north end, Fourth Avenue to the east and Warren Street to the south. For many years, I considered the neighborhood a kind of Johnny-come-lately wannabe area, riding on the fast-gentrifying coattails of Cobble Hill and Carroll Gardens. In the last five years though, though many bike trips through its street, I've come to love the place and recognize it as having a distinct character of its own.

THE NEW ST. CLAIR RESTAURANT: This diner is as good a place as any to begin a Boerum Hill tour. Founded in 1920 at the corner of Smith and Atlantic, it's one of the oldest, consistently operating businesses in the area and has seen many waves of incomers, from Italians and Irish to Hispanic peoples to Yuppies. It's been through a few transformations in that time, the most recent being in 2008. So it doesn't look very old. But its spirit is.

THE STATE STREET HOUSES: Walk north to State Street. The block of State between Smith and Hoyt contains 23 beautifully preserved Renaissance Revival brownstones dating from the 1840s to the 1870s. The group is landmarked.

CHURCHES: Head back to Atlantic. At the north corner with Bond, there's the stark Byelorussian Autocephalic Orthodox Church, which is kind of simple and plain, but which I love because it's called the Byelorussian Autocephalic Orthodox Church. Down the block is the House of the Lord Pentecostal Church, a nice Romanesque Revival job. It used to be the Swedish Pilgrims' Evangelical Church, when there were tons of Swedes along Atlantic.



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Lost City

06 JANUARY 2009

Lost City's Guide to Times Square



Fairly often now, I get e-mails from out-of-town readers of Lost City who are planning on visiting NYC and want to know what classic Gotham spots they should visit. Aside from the Empire State and Grand Central and the other hugely obvious destinations, I mean. So, rather than continuing to answer these queries piecemeal (though I'll continue to do that if people ask), I've decided to tackle the matter neighborhood by neighborhood, starting with this item on **Times Square**. I figure, anything that helps these old businesses stay afloat is for the good, so might as well direct as much traffic thataway as possible.

I'm starting with Times Square for a few reasons. One, it's where every tourist ends up eventually, so a guide to it will be of the most use. Two, there's precious little of Old New York left there, and, as I'm freaking lazy, it will be an easy thing to write up.

Also, keep in mind: this is not meant to be an ideal of complete-ism. It's a smattering, a selection, a best-of. Also, I'm focusing on things that are *still there*, not "This is where this was," or "On this spot once stood." Living history, not dead history. Contrary to some ideas people have of this blog, Lost City is *not* about nostalgia (not entirely, anyway): it's about old, but living and breathing places that ought to be celebrated and preserved.

So, here we go.

BROADWAY THEATRES: Even if you don't like theatre, go to a Broadway show. This collection of 30-odd old theatres has no architectural equivalent in the United States. They are gorgeous buildings, inside and out. The New Amsterdam's interior has the most opulent glitz for your buck (Don't miss the former gentlemen's lounge downstairs, with its murals and circular bar). The Hirschfeld is exotic, the Booth intimate and the Shubert's a beaut. And if you're really looking for the oldest everything, go to the ornate Lyceum, built in 1903 and the oldest continually operating Broadway theatre.

AMC EMPIRE 25 CINEPLEX: This 42nd Street movie house used to be the Eltinge Theatre, named after Julian Eltinge, the greatest female impersonator of the early 20th Century. The old ceiling murals are still there.

THE NEW YORK TIMES BUILDING: This grand structure on 43rd Street is where the paper did business for most of the 20th century. A great building no matter who occupies it next.

THE PARAMOUNT BUILDING: An Art Deco gem on 7th Avenue and 43rd, and one of the oldest surviving buildings in an area now littered with colorless glass boxes. Frank Sinatra wowed them here. The mountain-like structure has a beautiful, illuminated, four-sided clock which chimes "Give My Regards to Broadway" every night at 7:45. Take a tour of the building's lobby from the edge of the sidewalk. Life that office building looking good?

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Only in the USA

Photo impressions of american life. With comments.

Posts Tagged 'homeless people'

"Do you have any spare change?"

with 3 comments



It can be rather shocking to see so many homeless people in America (at least in San Francisco). They live on the streets all the year round. They sleep on the sidewalks bundled-up with old clothes and dirty blankets. They use [shopping carts](#) from [Safeway](#) to keep and transport their belongings (by the way in Washington, DC homeless people [use suitcases instead](#)). It took me some time to get used to their presence and stop being scared of them.

There are different reasons why so many people live on the streets: culture (way of living accepted by the society), climate (warm weather during almost the whole year), economy (it is easy to loose everything you have), social welfare system (no system of protection and help for those in need) etc. But whatever the reason is these people still remain Americans by nature. So if they beg they do it differently in comparison to their Russian counterparts.

To my mind the main difference is that they perceive begging as a job. Just staying silently at the corner with your palm turned up and waiting for somebody's mercy is considered as dilettantism. To succeed a beggar needs to be creative or at least active.

After some observations made I can distinguish between the following three begging strategies American homeless people pursue:

1) *Entertainment*. A person demonstrates some skills or even talent – playing a musical instrument for example – and passersby give alms. However it is rather rare when homeless people have any particular talent that can be capitalized in such a way. But this fact is not an obstacle to exploit this strategy. Instead of demonstration of some skills homeless people demonstrate advance in stupidity that, being weird, appeals to people even more. For example, instead of playing a real violin a person can pretend to play something like a violin making noises and faces.

2) *Fundraising*. This strategy exists in two main formats: a) messages about some difficulties a person experiences – like "Need money for a ticket" (in Russia people usually ask money for surgery); b) funny messages like "Why lie? I need a beer!" Fundraising requires less activity and easier to implement but at the same time it is difficult to find a really unique niche because rivals can easily copy even the most creative message.

3) *Providing services*. Service is a broad concept so almost everything can fall into this category. For example, homeless people can help you to bring your bags from grocery store to your car. But the most popular way is begging alms by asking the following question: "Do you have any spare change?" So it sounds like they provide you a service of utilization of change you don't need.

"Is a homeless person a loser or he/she is lost?" It seems like in the USA the answer is neither of these two options. Americans think homeless people are first of all individuals who have right to choose how to live. Taking care of yourself is your responsibility and nobody else's. That can be one of the main reasons why there is no any effective system of support for them. But it doesn't mean Americans are indifferent to those who are homeless. On the contrary, homeless

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Only in the USA

Photo impressions of american life. With comments.

They Can Do It!

with one comment



Before I came to the US, I thought that language, history, and art are among the core values of a nation and constitute the main ingredients of patriotism. If people speak the same language, share the same cultural codes, and are aware of things that happened to their home country in the past then it would be easier for them to be proud of their state and identify themselves as part of a nation. However, this recipe does not appear to work in the US.

Indeed, the US has a relatively short history and rather modest cultural heritage. It is also inhabited by immigrants from all over the world who represent diverse cultural communities and ethnic minorities. Therefore, the country does not have any conditions for the emergence of patriotism. A "global citizenship" is more likely to arise from this context, in which people do not care much about intimate feelings for their own country. However, Americans do love America and demonstrate patriotic behaviors very often! So either the American version of patriotism stems from a different root or Americans love their country in a different manner (at least in comparison to Russians).

For Russians, love for their country is often a result of a mental process during which the first step is a comparison to other countries, mostly by "external" parameters such as the level of political power, the size of the territory, the number of victories in wars and sport competitions, and the standards of living. It is interesting to envision what happens next if the comparison is not a favorable one! The second step is to find support for your patriotic feelings in "internal" factors such as the richness of Russian language, the complexity of Russian history, and the superiority of Russian classic literature. For instance, a novel by [Pushkin](#) standing on the bookshelf is the true symbol of patriotism in Russia.

The main symbol of patriotism for Americans is the flag of their country. It is funny that the most impressive exhibition in the National Museum of American history in Washington, DC is [a huge National Flag](#)! The woman who sewed the first flag became a national hero and her house in Philadelphia was "upgraded" into a [museum](#). One of my first impressions of the US was that there are lots of flags depicted and hung in virtually all public places – metro cars, buses, and buildings! Similarly, the colors of the American flag are widely used in lots of things, for example, cups for parties and clothes. What does the flag mean for Americans? What kind of patriotism does it symbolize? Personally, the easiest way to find the answers for these questions is to compare America to my home country. So...

The US	Russia
National flag represents the country and people can use it to express their feelings toward the state	National flag represents the state's power
National flags remind people that they are in the USA	National flags show where authorities (police, public institutions etc) are located
Outrage over national flag is not a crime	Before 2008 only public institutions could use national flags

So looks like the national flag in the US marks not only the state but also its territory. It symbolizes the privileges a

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Only in the USA

Photo impressions of american life. With comments.

Bon Appetit!

with 2 comments



What people eat and how they do it is probably the most evident feature of any culture. One of the stereotypes I used to have about Americans was about food. I believed Americans eat mostly fast food, normally never cook and have no clue what healthy eating is. I should thank McDonalds and mass media for these associations which appeared to be not a complete truth.

California looks like a gastronomic paradise! Variety of food products available in grocery stores and restaurants serving cousins from all over the world is just incredible. So the "content" is great. But the "form" – the way it is consumed – is sometimes weird. Whether it is an anorexic vegan or an indiscriminate gormandizer the main pattern is the same – eating on the run.

A counter instead of a dining table, a container instead of a plate, a paper cup instead of a mug. "To go" instead of "Dine in". They can eat everywhere! In front of a TV-set, in public transport, on the street, in class etc. It looks like there is no difference between lunch or brunch or dinner like there is no difference when to fill a car's gas tank – in the morning, in the afternoon or in the evening.

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Written by [onlyintheusa](#)
April 14, 2010 at 09:09

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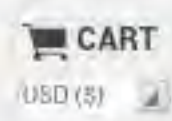
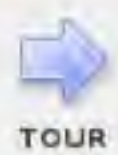
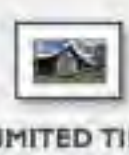
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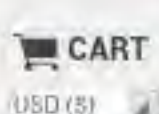
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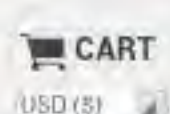
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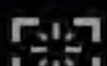
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Kevin Felts

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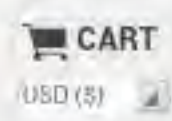
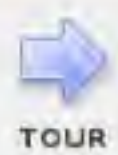
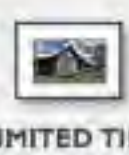


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Ann Arbor Alley

Jim Vasant
20 of 66

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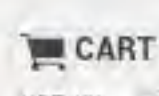
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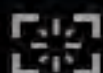
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Graffiti At Railroad Bridge

Jim Vansant

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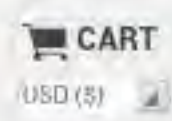
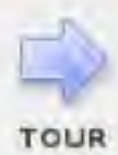
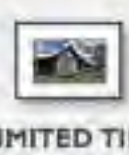
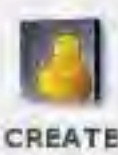


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No Escape
Mark Winter
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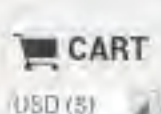
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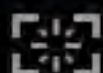
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Strange Beauty

Joshua Ball

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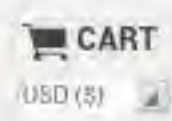
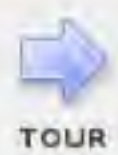
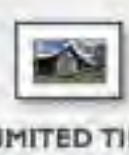


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Detroit Blues


Joshua Ball
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James Guentner
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Mike Savad
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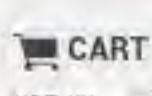
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City - Door - The Back Door

Mike Savad

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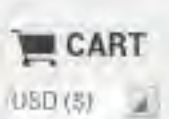
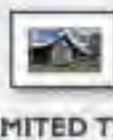


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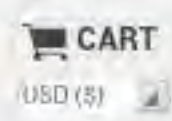
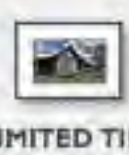
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RicardMN Photography
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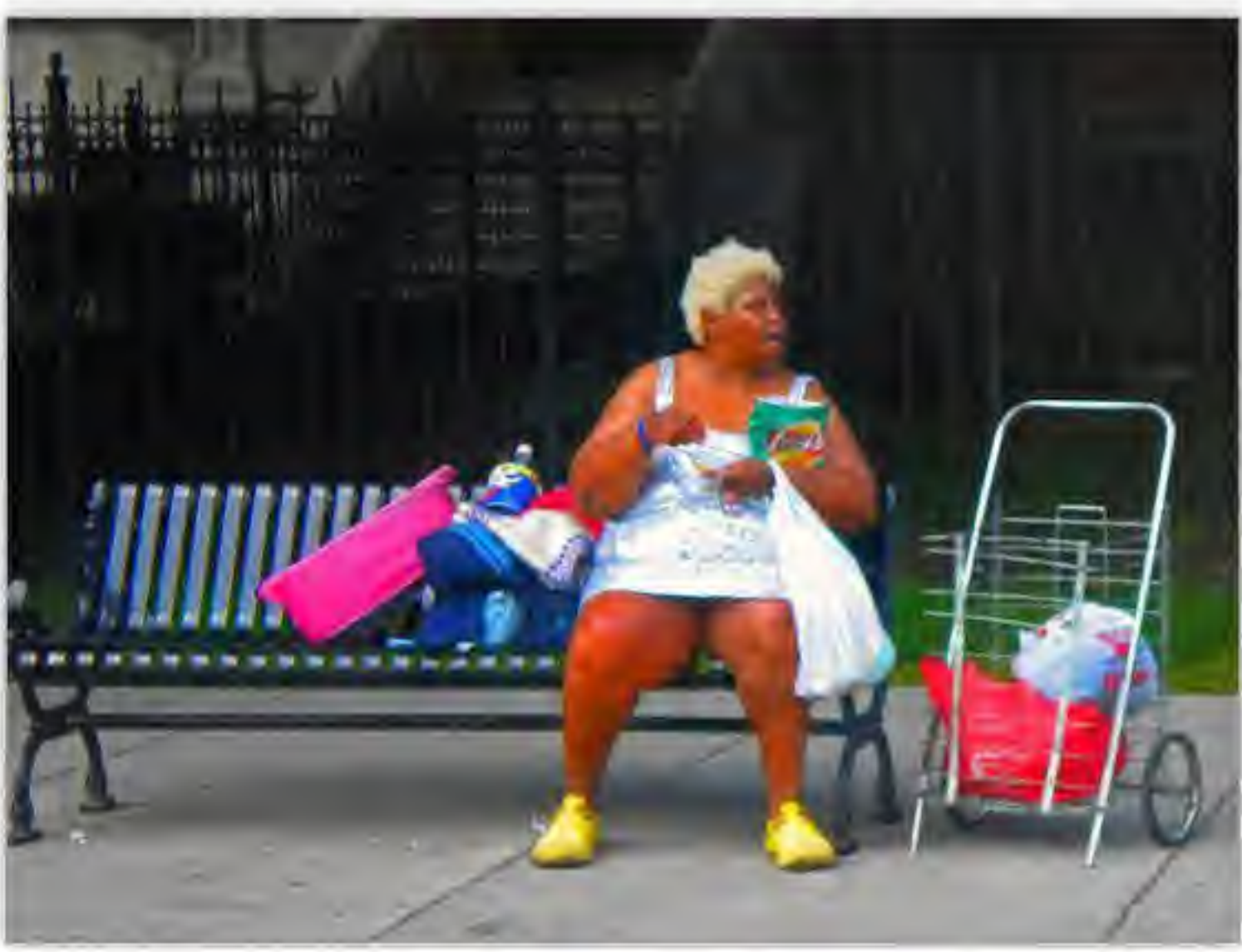
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Bus Stop
Michael Durst
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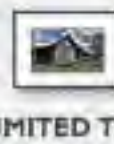
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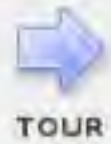
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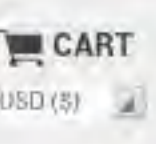
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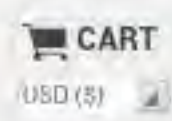
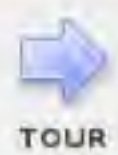
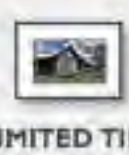
Jane Linders
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Blue Bird Of Happiness

Jane Linders
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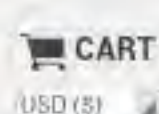
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Jane Linders

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
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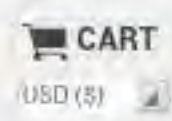
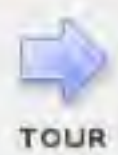
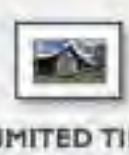
Back Lane Passage
Jakub Sisak
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John Black
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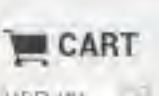
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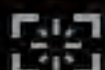
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Tony Ramos



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Tony Ramos



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Jim Vansant



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food

The 'Dirty' Word

Has Dirty Sixth cleaned up its act?

BY IVY LE, FRI., MAY 24, 2013

I asked the associate director of the Downtown Austin Alliance, an Austin resident for 23 years, what "Dirty Sixth" means and whether it's cleaning up, but Molly Alexander only knows it as East Sixth, Old Pecan Street, and "the oldest street in Texas."

"I just recently heard it called Dirty Sixth in the past two or three years – only in the media. Just reporters use it," Alexander gibes.

This reporter then took a pedicab to Sixth Street to investigate. I was about to ask my pedicab driver whether he'd ever heard of Dirty Sixth and, if it exists, whether he'd be dropping me off there. Then he turned up Trinity toward Sixth, we both held our breath from the waste-laden wind, and the question pretty much answered itself.

Though technically the Downtown strip is on East Sixth, that term – East Sixth – has become shorthand for the more laid-back, locals-friendly neighborhood east of I-35 that exploded in the Aughties. "Dirty Sixth" – famous for shot bars, tourists, and stumbling-drunk undergrads – sits west of the highway, and it's currently undergoing a renaissance of its own.

Whether or not you buy into the "dirty" hype, Easy Tiger (709 E. Sixth), with its ebullient national rankings for beer and food, would count among the waves washing it clean. The ELM Restaurant Group, which also created 24 Diner (600 N. Lamar), bought the space on East Sixth three years ago and opened Easy Tiger in 2012.

"Those bushes that we cleared out by the building were loaded with shit – literally and figuratively," says Drew Curren, chef and ELM partner. "For the first several months, we had to call 911 two to three times a day." They called for situations ranging from theft to homeless people using the beer garden's Ping-Pong area as a free, amenity-less hostel.

Scott Hentschel, also a partner of ELM, wouldn't consider the location when Linda Asaf, a recruiter for Downtown Austin Alliance, approached him while eating at 24 Diner in 2010. "We said, no, we don't even have to get off our barstool," Hentschel recalls. He hadn't had occasion to go to "that" side of Sixth in over 20 years. Asaf persisted and convinced them to take a look. "It was the strongest odor of urine possible," says Hentschel. "It was dark, dirty, and dingy."

Still, the ELM partners couldn't stop thinking of the potential to combine their bakery and beer garden concepts into a single space. Ultimately, ignoring the warnings of their friends, families, and business



Easy Tiger

PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON



FOL



REA

KEYWORD

Dirty Sixth
Restaura
Austin Al
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Written by Amanda Starbuck

Topics: Action, Coal, Finance

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Over the last few weeks since we launched our "Not One More Dollar" campaign, thousands of you have committed to stop doing business with Bank of America until the bank quits underwriting the dirty coal industry.

We're working side by side with economic justice and democracy groups who are also pushing for the biggest banks to change their behavior. Whether the issue is environmental pollution, home foreclosures, or predatory lending, we can all agree on the root cause: Corporate profits being prioritized ahead of human dignity.

This was at the front of my mind on Saturday when I joined with many friends and allies and the mighty ranks of #OccupySF to mark "Bank Transfer Day" and take our message directly to the

banks.

A full 3,000 of us marched through the streets of the city's financial district, stopping along the way at the Chase West Coast HQ, the Wells Fargo HQ, and Bank of America Plaza. At each corporate office we sat down and blocked the streets and then staged "foreclosures" at these buildings.

Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment home defender Brenda Reed spoke about Chase trying to foreclose her home and shared Jamie Dimon's office phone number with the crowd. Iraq Veterans Against the War spoke about Wells Fargo underwriting military operations. And I spoke at BoA about its bankrolling of the coal industry.

Then the Chinese Progressive Association spoke to us about the economic situation of immigrants in our city and taught us how to chant "We are the 99%" in Cantonese. As we marched back to #OccupySF through Chinatown, we kept the chant going strong.

This event illustrated the power we have when we act together. That power is not only strong in the streets, it's an economic force to be reckoned with. The thousands of RAN supporters who are closing their BoA accounts, are a part of the 650,000 people who have moved billions of dollars from big banks to credit unions this past month. That's a significant shift, demonstrating clearly that our movement is ready to abandon the banks that don't reflect our values.

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- ★ Pamela Whitelaw: I am sick of big companies distorting our world to make money. We cannot lose anymore animals to these people. Time to stop them lining their pockets...
- ★ david t from cali: if a corporation wants the same rights as us, then they can have the right to remain silent. since you cant move a corporation physically into jail, t...
- ★ Maryellen: Hmm it appears like your blog ate my first comment (it was super long) so I guess I'll just sum it up what I wrote and say, I'm thoroughly enjoying ...
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Movie

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Basic Info

Genre: Documentary
Studio: IFC Films | Sundance Selects. Civic Bakery presents a Big Noise Films production.
Release Date: In US theaters June 7. On demand June 14. Book by Jeremy Scahill out now.
Short Description: www.dirtywars.org
A secret army. A war without end.
A journalist determined to uncover the truth.

Detailed Info

Directed By: Richard Rowley

Awards: Cinematography Award for U.S. Documentary, Sundance Film Festival 2013.
Grand Jury Prize for Documentary, Independent Film Festival of Boston 2013.
Golden Rock for Best Documentary, Little Rock Film Festival 2013.
Courage in Filmmaking, Little Rock Film Festival 2013.
Cinematography Award, Mountainfilm 2013.

Official Selection Sundance Film Festival 2013, True/False Film Festival 2013, Dallas International Film Festival 2013, Independent Film Festival of Boston 2013, Montclair Film Festival 2013, TRT Documentary Days 2013, Little Rock Film Festival 2013, Mountainfilm 2013, Seattle Film Festival 2013, Berkshire International Film Festival 2013, Sydney Film Festival 2013, Sheffield Doc/Fest 2013.

Description: Investigative journalist Jeremy Scahill is pulled into an unexpected journey as he chases down the hidden truth behind America's expanding covert wars.

Produced By: Anthony Arnove, Brenda Coughlin, Jeremy Scahill

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➡ Utah Rally to Stop Coal Exports

0

Posted: February 21, 2011 by earthfirstdurango in coal, direct action, environmental justice, mining, resistance, water

Wednesday, February 23 · 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Ambre Energy's North American Headquarters
170 South Main Street
Salt Lake City, UT

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Within the past few months, the western United States has become the center of attention for coal companies seeking to export coal to Asia. Because of their strategic location as a transport hub from Wyoming and Montana to China and other overseas markets, King Coal is attempting to buy up ports along the Pacific Northwest Coast for coal export.



With it's North American headquarters in Salt Lake City, Ambre Energy is leading coal export expansion in the northwest United States. They are building a coal export terminal on the Columbia River in Longview, Washington to ship coal mined in Wyoming and Montana to overseas markets.

Coal is leading source of greenhouse gas emissions and public health issues, like asthma and cancer, as well as adversely effecting wilderness and communities through devastating extraction practices. It's time to replace dirty coal with more sustainable clean energy solutions.

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AirborneSapper7

Senior Member



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The Tunnel People That Live Under The Streets Of America - Obamavilles

The Tunnel People That Live Under The Streets Of America

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Did you know that there are thousands upon thousands of homeless people that are living underground beneath the streets of major U.S. cities? It is happening in Las Vegas, it is happening in New York City and it is even happening in Kansas City.

As the economy crumbles, poverty in the United States is **absolutely**



12:47 PM

3G



EUROPE BUSINESS NEWS | January 8, 2008

Southern Italy's Dirty Reality

Naples Trash Pileup Helps to Illuminate Mafia, State Roles

Article

Comments

By GABRIEL KAHN

Mountains of uncollected trash smoldering on the streets of Naples are illuminating an unsightly reality about southern Italy: A combination of a weak state and powerful organized crime makes some areas of the country ungovernable.

In Naples, that combination has created a toxic mix that has paralyzed the city of more than two million, created serious health risks and revealed the inability of the government to tackle even the most basic urban problems. The Camorra, as the Naples Mafia is known, maintains a tight grip on the lucrative trash business, and as the situation has worsened, the Camorra's profit and power have risen.



Bloomberg News /Landsay

A large pile of trash littered a street in central Naples yesterday.

Trash hasn't been picked up on the streets since Dec. 31, when the last of dumps in the area, which had been operating beyond capacity, couldn't accept more trash. And for several weeks before that, pickups had been sporadic at best. On Sunday, army units were called in to remove trash from school buildings so that students could return after the winter break. The gravity of the situation has led to a series of desperate but still

useless measures taken by authorities.

In the Pianura neighborhood, authorities recently decided to reopen a dump that had been closed 11 years earlier. That sparked violent daily clashes with local residents.

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Friday, 18 January 2013

Latin American women face widespread violence: study

More than half of Bolivian women have suffered domestic violence, according to a report out Thursday that found such abuse widespread in [Latin America](#), with partners usually the perpetrators.

In seven of the 12 Latin American and Caribbean countries surveyed by the [Pan American Health Organization](#) (Paho), more than one in four women reported having experienced such brutality in their lifetimes.

At 17 [per cent](#), women in the Dominican Republic reported the lowest level of domestic violence. It was followed by its neighbor Haiti, the poorest country in the region, with 19 per cent.



Paho pointed to social and cultural norms that support violence against women in the region, including that "there are times when a woman deserves to be beaten" and "a man has a right to assert power over a woman and is considered socially superior".

It also found that physical violence is considered an "acceptable way" to resolve conflict in a relationship and that sexual activity — including rape — is a "marker of masculinity."

Even when looking at just a 12-month period, rather than an entire lifetime, the report found that more than a quarter of women — 25.5 per cent — in Bolivia reported physical or sexual violence in 2008.

The lowest ratio, at 7.7 per cent, was in El Salvador (2008) and Jamaica (2008-2009).

In up to 82 per cent of cases, women suffered physical injuries, ranging from cuts and bruises to [broken bones](#), miscarriages and burns.

Despite the abuse, between 28 per cent and 64 per cent of victims did not speak to anyone or seek help, according to the 156-page report, titled "Violence Against Women in Latin America and [the Caribbean](#)."

The analysis of more than 180,000 women also showed that women who were beaten in childhood reported violence at the hands of their partners as adults at higher rates than those who were not hit when they were young.

"In addition to violating [basic human](#) rights, violence against women has serious consequences [for the health](#) of women and their children and impacts heavily on health services and health workers in the region," said Paho Director Mirta Roses.

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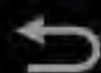
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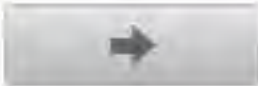


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Child abuse linked to asthma in black women

by Brittany Gatson, Blackdoctor.org | March 13, 2013 at 8:30 AM

Comments

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The study found that an African-American woman who suffered abuse as a child saw her chances of developing asthma later in life increase 20 percent. © tomala - Fotolia.com

Physical and/or sexual abuse may be potential asthma causes in black women. In fact, abuse may more than double the odds of a child having asthma. Researchers have made a connection between childhood abuse suffered by African-American women and asthma, which develops later in their lives.

As part of the Black Women's Health Study at the Slone Epidemiology Center at Boston University, conducted from 1995 to 2011, a total of 28,456 women gave information on physical and sexual abuse suffered before age 11, as well as between the ages of 12 and 18.

The study found that an African-American woman who suffered abuse as a child saw her chances of developing asthma later in life increase 20 percent.

The link between physical abuse and asthma was stronger than that seen between sexual abuse and asthma, researchers said. Physical abuse includes actions intended to injure a child, while sexual abuse includes actions intended for the gratification of the abuser.

"This is the first prospective study to show an association between childhood abuse and adult-onset asthma," Patricia Coogan, the lead author of the report, said in a statement. "The results suggest that chronic stress contributes to asthma onset, even years later."

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Latin American women face widespread violence

AFP

Friday, January 18, 2013



The perpetrators of violence against South American women are usually their own partners.

WASHINGTON: More than half of Bolivian women have suffered domestic violence, according to a report out Thursday that found such abuse widespread in Latin America, with partners usually the perpetrators.

In seven of the 12 Latin American and Caribbean countries surveyed by the Pan American Health Organization, more than one in four women reported having experienced such brutality in their lifetimes.

At 17 per cent, women in the Dominican Republic reported the lowest level of domestic violence. It was followed by its neighbor Haiti, the poorest country in the region, with 19 per cent.

PAHO pointed to social and cultural norms that support violence against women in the region, including that there are times when a woman deserves to be beaten and a man has a right to assert power over a woman and is considered socially superior.

It also found that physical violence is considered an acceptable way to resolve conflict in a relationship and that sexual activity -- including rape -- is a marker of masculinity.

Even when looking at just a 12-month period, rather than an entire lifetime, the report found that more than a quarter of women -- 25.5 per cent -- in Bolivia reported physical or sexual violence in 2008.

The lowest ratio, at 7.7 per cent, was in El Salvador (2008) and Jamaica (2008-2009).

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Despite the abuse, between 28 per cent and 64 per cent of victims did not speak to anyone or seek help, according to the 156-page report, titled "Violence Against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean."

The analysis of more than 180,000 women also showed that women who were beaten in childhood reported violence at the hands of their partners as adults at higher rates than those who were not hit when they were young.

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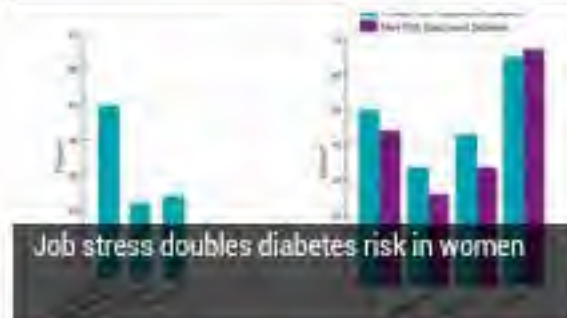
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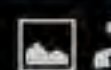
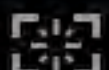
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NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN SEEK PROTECTIONS FROM ABUSE

🕒 15. May, 2012 📁 Posts 💬 Comments Off

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Diane Millich's ex-husband was never arrested for any of the more than 100 times he slapped, kicked or punched her before showing up at her Colorado workplace and firing a 9 mm pistol, wounding the co-worker who pushed her out of the way.

When he was finally arrested in New Mexico weeks after the shooting, he was treated as a first-time offender, according to a [report from the Associated Press](#).

Why? Because while Millich is Native American, her ex-husband is not and all the domestic violence took place on the Southern Ute reservation.

Under a 1978 Supreme Court decision, non-Indians cannot be prosecuted by tribal courts for crimes committed on tribal land. Last July, the Justice Department recommended that Congress give tribes local authority to prosecute non-Indians in misdemeanor domestic and dating violence cases. The pending renewal of the Violence Against Women Act seemed a good chance to do that.

But the act has become entangled in election-year politics, with each party adding language on other issues that infuriates the other. Although the version the Senate passed 68-31 would follow the Justice Department recommendations and give tribes the power to prosecute non-Indians in tribal courts, the House so far has not. The House could change its mind and add the provisions as soon as this week when it is expected to consider the bill.

Millich said a change in the law certainly would have helped her deal with the abuse in her marriage, which began with slapping and pushing when she was a 24-year-old newlywed. After a year, Millich filed for divorce



Impunity for Violence Against Women

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Submitted by [jcollin9](#) (89)

4 October, 2011 - 02:13



Around the world at least one woman in every three has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Most often the abuser is a member of her own family (Heise). According to the National Victim Center, rape is considered "the most underreported violent crime in America." In a large national survey of American women, only 16% of the rapes (approximately one out of every six) had ever been reported to the police. Global Rights' *Living with Violence: A National Report on Domestic Abuse in Afghanistan* ... presents the findings of surveys on domestic violence conducted with women in 4,700 households in 16 provinces located across Afghanistan in 2006. The report concluded that:

- an overwhelming majority of women, 87.2%, experienced at least one form of physical, sexual or psychological violence or forced marriage
- most, 62.0%, experienced multiple forms of violence
- overall, 17.2% of women reported sexual violence

("Global Rights Living With...")

These statistics only further show that violence against women is both a local, national, and global problem. But, if this is such a large scale global problem, why do so many women refuse to report their abuse? Why do men think it's okay to treat their wives, sisters, nieces, and even grand-daughters in this manner? Why do so many justice systems find it acceptable to sweep the injustice of women under the rug? These are all questions that we must demand answers for.

CDC: 25% Of American Women Are Victims Of Domestic Abuse



A new release from the **CDC** reports that nearly a *quarter* of American women and 11.5% of American men have experienced some kind of **intimate partner violence** during their lifetimes.

According to *Reuters*, the CDC defines "intimate partner violence" as "threatened, attempted or completed

physical or sexual violence or emotional abuse by a spouse, former spouse, current or former boyfriend or girlfriend or a dating partner." Not only does the abuse cause immediate damage, but the CDC has found that victims of abuse are much more likely to suffer from other long-term health problems as a result of partner violence. To wit: Abused women are 80% more likely to have a stroke, 70% more prone to heart disease and arthritis, and 60% more asthmatic than the rest of the female population. Not to mention the mental repercussions: *Reuters* reports that abuse victims are "twice as likely to report that their activities are limited by physical, mental or emotional problems."

Nothing in the news today unscores this reality better than the story of Christi Layne, **currently in the hospital** and suffering from stab



Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT)

[Domestic Violence Response Team Booklet](#)[E-mail the Domestic Violence Response Team](#)[Northwest Suburban Alliance on Domestic Violence](#)

Domestic violence is a serious problem with far reaching effects in communities. According to the Illinois Attorney General's office, 31% of American women report having been physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend. Approximately 240,000 pregnant women are battered each year. Domestic violence costs American businesses \$5.8 billion each year: \$4.1 billion in direct medical and mental health expenses, and \$ 1.7 in lost productivity. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States, April 2003.) Domestic violence affects all ethnicities and socio-economic classes.

The Schaumburg Police Department has taken a victim sensitive approach as it relates to domestic violence and implemented a change of policy of zero tolerance against domestic abusers. Officers **will** make an arrest for domestic battery when probable cause exists, as opposed to the Illinois Supreme Court ruling that states an officer **may** make an arrest for domestic battery when probable cause exists. Complaints are signed on behalf of the victim when the victim is reluctant.

The Schaumburg Police Department's Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) is made up of eleven patrol officers from all three shifts, three social workers, one crime analyst, three detectives, one sergeant and one lieutenant.

The goals of the team are:

- To provide effective and improved service to victims of domestic violence.
- To provide a thorough, professional investigation for the State's Attorney's Office.
- To have a current understanding of domestic violence, the laws that pertain to it, and to have the versatility to adjust and change with the times.
- To offer a combined, consistent departmental approach from social services, patrol, administration, and investigations in an attempt to break the cycle of repeat calls and escalating violence.

The Domestic Violence Response Team collects information on all domestic related incidents. The crime analyst compiles data to determine when the police department has responded to three or more domestic incidents in a six month period to the same address or with the same parties. All domestic reports are reviewed by the social services department and the DVRT supervisors. The criteria for DVRT response are domestic arrests and multiple calls for service. Every domestic battery arrest is assigned to the team for follow up, as well as places or persons who have had three or more police responses. When these "Domestic Hot Spots" are identified, they are more closely monitored for intervention.

When the Domestic Violence Response Team responds, they provide the following to the victim:

- answer questions
- counseling
- review all options
- apprise victim of their rights



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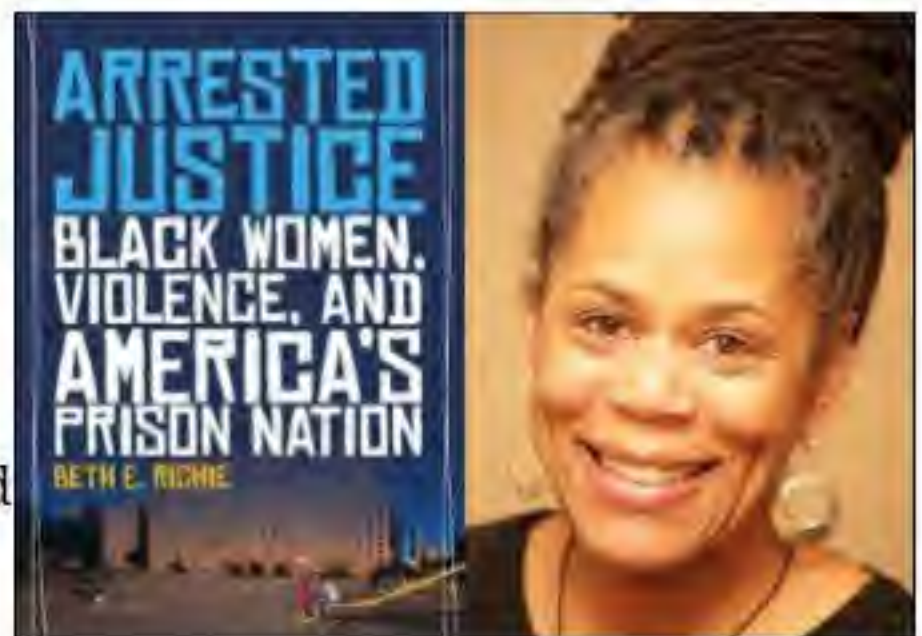
Arrested Justice: Black Women, Violence, and America's Prison Nation

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Feature Stories Featured Book | Published 17 Dec 2012, 10:48 am | No Comments -

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Disturbing comments made recently by Fox News host Dana Perino that women who are domestically abused should “make better decisions” were in response to the killing of 22 year old Kasandra Perkins, an African American woman, who was gunned down by her boyfriend, the NFL player Jovan Belcher.



Wisconsin Democratic Senator Gwen Moore reacted to the comments by tweeting: “As someone that has survived sexual assault I can say that violence is not the victim’s fault.” Perkins’ death adds to the increasing numbers of African American women who are victims of violence. Not only are African American women at greater risk for being violently abused they are also incarcerated at a rate that is three times higher than White women.

Now a compelling new book by Beth Richie called, Arrested Justice: Black Women, Violence and America’s Prison Nation focuses on the oppression of impoverished black women by a white male dominated power structure.

Richie, a seasoned Black feminist scholar, has spent the last 25 years



Study Links Childhood Abuse to Adult-Onset Asthma in African-American Women



A new study from the Slone Epidemiology Center (SEC) at Boston University has linked childhood abuse to the adult onset of asthma in African-American women. According to the study, those who reported being abused before age 11 were more likely to contract asthma as adults when compared to women who were not abused either in

childhood or during their teenage years.

For the study, researchers followed 28,456 African-American women. They were asked to answer health questionnaires and were also asked about physical and sexual abuse during childhood up to age 11 or during adolescence, between ages 12 and 18.

Read more at <http://www.counselheal.com/articles/3329/20121209/study-links-childhood-abuse-adult-onset-asthma.htm#Xqt31876jQ0OdJBJ.99>

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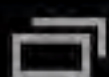
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immigration detention facilities. Native American women are among the most vulnerable groups, with 46 percent subject to rape, physical violence, or stalking by a domestic partner at some point in their lives, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Some in favor of the House bill are trying to question the constitutionality of the Native American provision. However, you can read the letter [here](#) that was sent by several law professors that states they believe the provision is constitutional and needed for the safety of Native American women.



Image by kenfotos at freedigitalphotos.net

For the record, I do not consider myself a Democrat or a Republican. I vote according to the person and how well I think he or she can do the job. I have some beliefs that are democratic strong holds and some that are republican. I don't think either side is entirely right. And in some cases they are both just plain wrong. So again, I urge you to consider this matter as a person and how you would want to be treated and how you would want your daughters and other family members to be treated.

I cannot imagine what the drafters of the House version could possibly be thinking. Apparently they're not thinking about the women and children that will be abandoned by this version. Or those who will lose their lives because of it.

I strongly oppose the Cantor-Adams bill because it rolls back VAWA protections, it abandons Native women, immigrant and LGBT victims and it is NOT the REAL VAWA. I know what violence looks like because I worked as a Child Protective Services Investigator and Supervisor for 9 years. After that I worked as a custody investigator for 10 years for the Family Courts.

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FOR WRITERS



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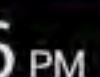
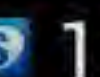
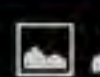
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Domestic Violence

The US Department of Justice estimates that there are nearly 1,000,000 incidents of violence against a current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend per year.

Nearly 1/3 of American women report being raped and/or physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, cohabitating partner or date at some time during their life (*National Violence Against Women Survey, conducted from November 1995 to May 1996*). In addition, those who study the dynamics of domestic violence estimate that 60%-70% of the cases also involve alcohol abuse.

No matter how grim, statistics cannot begin to reveal the devastating impact of abuse and violence on victim's families, loved ones, friends and colleagues. But we are not helpless. There are steps we all can take. To offer support or report instances of domestic violence, call The National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1.800.799.SAFE (7233) or visit their [website](#). In addition, there are several state-level agencies which offer assistance to victims and families struggling to deal with this issue. These state agencies, their phone numbers and addresses can be found [here](#). At a more activist level, there is the [Cynthia L. Bischof Memorial Foundation](#) established to promote legislative change in how we protect victims and potential victims from further abuse and violence.

The iSECUREtrac Solution

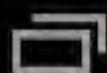
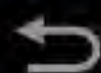
iSECUREtrac monitoring solutions, when integrated into a strict community supervision and counseling program can help break the cycle of domestic violence. For example, [active GPS](#) can be used to ensure the monitored individual attends anger management classes ([inclusion zone](#)) AND avoids locations frequented by the domestic violence victim ([exclusion zones](#)). As an additional safety precaution, with automated voice [alerts](#), the potential victim can be notified when a monitored individual is not compliant with the terms of their release. When the offender becomes non-compliant, both the victim and the supervising agent can be immediately notified via cell phone or landline.

To monitor alcohol consumption, iSECUREtrac offers the MEMS 2000 for in-home testing of individuals without convenient access to a central testing facility. Testing schedules can be based upon regular or random intervals. Testing can also be conducted on demand.

For more information or to request an on-site demo of iSECUREtrac systems, services and software, [email](#) or call toll-free at 866.537.0022.

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In Americas, Resistance to Legal Marijuana



Luís Soto/Associated Press

María Ángela Holguín, Colombian foreign minister, at a meeting of an Americas bloc.

By [RANDAL C. ARCHIBOLD](#)

Published: June 6, 2013

ANTIGUA, Guatemala — Whatever noisy hints Latin America has been making about a defiant march toward legalizing marijuana, the summit meeting of Western Hemisphere foreign ministers that ended Thursday revealed how rocky that path would be — and how many nations remained reluctant to join it.



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The meeting, the annual General Assembly session of the Organization of American States, followed a report by the organization that called for “flexible approaches” in drug policy and included a [headline-grabbing suggestion](#) that the [legalization of marijuana be seriously discussed](#).

Even before the report, Uruguay moved toward a state-regulated [marijuana market](#). Guatemala has talked approvingly of the idea. And the president of Colombia has said marijuana should be legalized worldwide, though his country would not take the first step.

So how quickly will pot shops open throughout the region? Not very.

The frustration with current drug policy — with its high costs, death tolls in the tens of thousands across the Americas and persistent heavy flow of narcotics — is very real. Consensus on what to do about it, however, is much harder to come by. Diplomats here even tussled behind the scenes on how to follow up on the report and how further talks should be conducted.

The focus on the crack in the door for legalization has obscured the fact that several countries in the thick of the problem, and not just the United States, are cool to the idea or reject it outright as any solution to the violence or as a way to control consumption.

Brazil has opposed legalization of any drug, and its antidrug chief was fired two years ago after comments perceived as a softened stance on drug users.

The head of Peru’s antidrug agency told reporters after the O.A.S. report came out that it rejected legalization and was already overwhelmed with trying to treat the growing number of drug consumers there.

Mexico, too, has rejected wholesale legalization, even though former President Vicente Fox expressed his support this week for marijuana legalization and said he would even become a marijuana farmer.

One of the more blunt antilegalization voices here came from Nicaragua. Denis Moncada, ambassador to the organization, told the gathering, “Replacing and weakening the public policies and strategies now in use to combat the hemispheric drug problem would end up creating dangerous voids and jeopardize the security and well-being of our citizens.”

Public opinion polls in the region, which trends conservative on social issues, generally show disapproval for the idea and, unlike the United States, few countries have an older generation that is comfortable with the drug and might advocate for it.

“In the United States, public opinion leads politicians and not the other way around,” said John Walsh, a drug policy analyst at the Washington Office on Latin America who follows the region closely. “In Latin America, it is going to be a ways before that happens.”

Still, he said, the drug report went further than expected by breaking a taboo of not even discussing legalization, though it rejected talk on liberalizing laws against more powerful drugs like cocaine. Over all, he said, the report could give countries leverage to challenge hardened American positions.





planned parenthood

African American Ministers Leadership Council on SCOTUS Planned Parenthood Announcement: All Women Deserve Access to Health Care, Dignity, Autonomy

Today the Supreme Court declined to review a federal appeals court ruling blocking an Indiana law that would have stopped Planned Parenthood from receiving federal Medicaid funding for preventative health screenings.

Rev. Brendolyn Jenkins-Boseman of Aiken, South Carolina, chair of the African American Ministers Leadership Council, released the following statement:

"Today's decision is a victory for Indiana women and should be a signal to conservative legislatures across the country that are trying to limit women's access to health care. Our courts have stopped many of these measures, but with proposals to defund Planned Parenthood surfacing across the country, we must remain vigilant.

"Why do conservative politicians still think that playing politics is more important than women's access to cancer screenings and other vital health services? While these politicians push for wasteful and unpopular attacks on reproductive justice, many faith leaders and our allies remain committed to fighting for access to safe, affordable, and compassionate health care for all women. All women deserve dignity and autonomy – over their own bodies and their own futures."

###

Hutcherson: Satan Behind Obama's Planned Parenthood Speech and Jason Collins Coming Out

Writing for the *Christian Post* today, Washington state pastor and anti-gay activist Ken Hutcherson said it was no coincidence that Jason Collins came out just days following President Obama's speech to Planned Parenthood, contending that both incidents were satanically inspired as they will further "evil" and "both go directly against God's Holy Word."

"The enemy has impeccable timing," Hutcherson writes, claiming that Satan is using President Obama's pro-choice policies and the "gay agenda" to persecute Christians.

According to Hutcherson, Obama's speech was no different than an endorsement of Adolf Hitler or Pol Pot, while "Collins is being used as a pawn, in the most dangerous game of Russian roulette for his soul."

God's moral line "has been crossed, and once again Obama has done nothing," Hutcherson maintains. "Planned Parenthood and their poster child, Dr. Kermit Gosnell, long ago crossed the line, exactly like those going public with their sexual preference."

Last Friday, April 26th, President Obama became the first sitting president to speak at the National Planned Parenthood Conference. Not only did he speak at this event, but he invoked God's blessing upon them! No president in our history has had the arrogance to openly endorse the slaughter of our unborn, and atrocities against women. Would the American people have ever endorsed the likes of Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Emperor Hirohito, or other mass-murderers as this President has done? And let me mention another genocidal maniac: Dr. Kermit Gosnell of Philadelphia, who 'surprisingly' was not mentioned by the President during his speech, despite working under the policy of Planned Parenthood.

In other news, do any of you believe there is a connection between the Boston Celtic NBA basketball player, Jason Collins, announcing he is gay only 72 hours after President Obama's speech to Planned Parenthood? The answer is a resounding YES! More proof that Christian views are very much under attack! The enemy has impeccable timing.

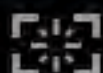
Collins is being used as a pawn, in the most dangerous game of Russian roulette for his soul. Have you ever noticed that those who support the gay agenda don't like Christians in sports, entertainment, or media? They really don't like us anywhere at all. Let's take Tim Tebow as a classic example. Tebow was asked to keep his beliefs quietly to himself, while Collins is celebrated for the 'heroism' displayed for exposing his off-court activities.

Professional sports teams are now in very serious jeopardy, due in part to the abuse of the word "tolerance". But really, who is intolerant now? Players may not agree or like having a gay teammate, but they will be so intimidated that they may not say anything. If they do say something based on their moral or biblical beliefs, THEY will be the ones disciplined or kicked off the team. Ask Chris Broussard of ESPN. He simply stated homosexuality (along with other acts) is a sin; the way he was attacked, you would have thought he was the spawn of Satan himself.

I can't imagine that Collins, standing in the shower after a game, and knowing the vast majority of his teammates are not gay, will go over very well. How about the players standing in the shower with him, knowing that one of their teammates likes other men? Just saying...

This will have the most negative impact on not only the individual teams, but also on the individuals themselves.

The connection between these two stories should be very obvious: they both go directly against God's Holy Word. After all, God hates hands that shed innocent blood (Prov.6:17) and is sickened by sodomy (Rom.1:24-27). Unfortunately, our President has chosen to commend rather than condemn these things. These two situations are critically dangerous to our society. Why is the United States of America, and many within the church today, putting God to the test? This is far worse than playing with fire. Last year, President Obama announced that he was drawing a 'red line' in the sand against Syria in regards to them using chemical weapons against the Syrian people. That line has been crossed, and once again Obama has done nothing. Planned Parenthood and their poster child, Dr. Kermit Gosnell, long ago crossed the line, exactly like those going public with their



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American Civic Association helps abused woman obtain "green card"

Posted on [December 1, 2011](#)

Katrina entered the American Civic Association and asked if the organization could assist her in obtaining a permanent residency permit issued to non-citizens, commonly called a "green card". She explained that she was a recent immigrant from Haiti and is married to a local U.S. citizen, but was separated from her husband due to his severe abuse of her.



The American Civic Association, which receives funds from United Way of Broome County, provides immigrants and refugees with critical services to help them become self-sufficient community members and citizens as part of its mission. One service the ACA provides is to assist abused spouses, mostly women, file for permanent residency, or "adjustment".

Individuals that enter the United States as a fiancée or spouse initially receive conditional residency based on their marriage or engagement to an American citizen. At the end of a temporary period of two years the immigrant must file for a green card.

Unfortunately, a large number of immigrants find their path to permanent residency at least temporarily blocked because of an abusive relationship with their partner or spouse.

However, individuals in an abusive relationship or marriage have the opportunity for adjustment on their own through a self-petition. After an initial intake assessment, the ACA determined that Katrina had a viable case for a self-petition.

The ACA assisted Katrina in preparing the initial application for residency. Under United States rules, the self-petitioning applicant must prove two key elements: both a good-faith marriage and significant abuse. Unfortunately, victims of abuse often have great difficulty proving these elements.

Katrina, like so many women in these cases, fled the abusive household with just a few personal belongings but no documents to support either her good faith

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Domestic violence hurts families

Women's Abuse Help Network

According to the [American Institute on Domestic Violence](#), the health related costs of violence towards spouses and intimate partners from assault, stalking, rape and other abuse exceeds \$5.8 billion a year in the U.S. The fact is that many of these women being abused, stalked and murdered are not the stereo-typical, old B-movie idea of a woman who is victimized by her spouse or boyfriend. Blue collar, white collar and wealthy women alike are victimized. Stigma, shame and fear keep many women from seeking help.

Many [Christian women](#) are also greatly affected by domestic violence in their homes and yet few talk about it. The fear of exposing their secret shame in the home is one of the reasons. Fear of their spouse is another. And yet, fear of the Church and the way they will possibly be treated if anyone knew about the secret pain is yet another reason. (For more info. on [Christian](#) women and the cycle of domestic violence, check out [Biblical Battered Wife Syndrome](#))

Numerous married and single women live in fear of a violent offender every single day. As Christians, part of our duty is to treat others as we want to be treated but many do not. It is often a silent and sad secret that exists in Christian families and has typically been ignored by the Body of Christ in past years. Thankfully, more and more Christian organizations, [law-makers](#) and Churches are working to have more open arms and [implement more secure systems](#) in place to aid women (and men) who are battered. In one such effort, the [Kentucky](#) legislature has kicked in some additional legal monitoring measures for those who seek an EPO that will hopefully help make a difference.

This afternoon, January 12th, 2010 in the state of Kentucky a bill finally went under vote in the legislature to decide whether or not to institute a law that would require convicted domestic



Immigrat...



sexual-abuse-in-detention-facilities-to-the-forefront/



Migration Policy Institute, sexual assault, undocumented immigrants, Women's Refugee Commission



Female undocumented immigrants rest, some in thermal blankets, at the U.S. Border Patrol detainee processing center on April 11, 2013 in McAllen, Texas. (Photo by John Moore/Getty Images)

Immigration debate brings issue of sexual abuse in detention facilities to the forefront

by Alexis Garrett Stodghill, The Grio Follow @NBCLatino

11:55 am on 04/22/2013

Many Americans visualize an immigrant coming into the U.S. illegally as a single Mexican man looking for work. In truth, many crossing our borders are more diverse, and in many cases, more vulnerable.

"Net migration from Mexico is zero right now," Meghan Rhoad, a researcher at Human Rights Watch, told theGrio. "There aren't these floods of young single men that are coming to the United States looking just for a short-term job. These are people who call their home the United States. They own homes here. They have family here. They are fleeing persecution and coming here for safety."

Some advocates for undocumented immigrants also see them as a group that is particularly susceptible to abuse, including sexual abuse, while in government custody.

Sexual abuse of the undocumented: hard to trace

The federal government has documented almost 200 sexual abuse allegations by

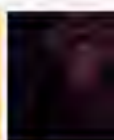
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Military Has Not Solved Problem of Sexual Assault, Women Say



Rich Addicks for The New York Times

Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Smith has accused the Air Force of turning a blind eye to sexual attacks on women.

By JAMES RISEN

Published: November 2, 2012.

WASHINGTON — Jennifer Smith, an Air Force technical sergeant, walked into the office of a senior officer at Kunsan Air Base in South Korea with an armful of paperwork. Instead of signing the documents, she said, he insisted that she sit down. “He said to me, ‘It’s Friday afternoon, why don’t you take off your blouse and get comfortable?’ ” Sergeant Smith recalled.

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Sergeant Smith, in 2004, at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida.

In Germany, a master sergeant who offered to escort her home tried to sexually assault her, she said, and was deterred only when co-workers intervened. At Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina, where she eventually complained about pornography and other graphic material on her unit’s computers, a supervisor warned her to keep quiet, she said.

During her 17-year career as an enlisted woman performing administrative work for Air Force fighter squadrons, Sergeant Smith said, she has endured repeated sexual assaults and harassment. She said she has decided to speak out now after keeping silent for

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Study Says 60 Percent of African-American Women Are Sexually Assaulted Before Age 18



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Sixty percent of Black women in an ongoing study reported they had been sexually assaulted by a Black man before they turned 18, according researchers at Black Women's Blueprint.

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Nationally, more than 300 women were surveyed in the study, and the organization hopes to survey a total of 700 women by March 2012. The group will announce its full findings at that time.

According to Farah Tanis, co-Founder of the New York-based organization and co-author of the study, domestic and sexual abuse in the Black community often goes ignored, and the problem is only getting worse.

"A similar study that was conducted by Black Women's Health Imperative seven years ago found that that number was about 40 percent," Tanis told NewsOne. "So that means there is an increase and we need to stop neglecting that issue."

Click [here](#) to read more.

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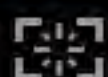


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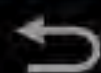


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Third Los Angeles Teacher Charged with Child Sex Abuse



Television crews await outside the George De La Torre Jr. Elementary in the Wilmington area of Los Angeles, Jan. 24, 2013. (Damian Dovarganes/AP Photo)

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By COLLEEN CURRY

Jan. 24, 2013

A former grade school teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District has been charged with sexually abusing 20 students, allegations that follow closely on the heels of two other LAUSD teachers charged with molestation in 2012.

Robert Pimentel, 57, who taught fourth grade in the district for 40 years, is accused of molesting children during two time periods, one child from 2002 to 2004, and 14 from September 2011 to March 2012. The investigation is ongoing.

The charges against Pimentel include eight counts of "substantial sexual conduct" and seven counts of "lewd and lascivious acts" on children under 14 years of age, according to court documents. All of the charges are felonies.

Police told ABC News affiliate KABC they expect more misdemeanor charges to be filed.

Police did not release any other details about the type of alleged



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The Sacramento Observer
50th Anniversary
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Researchers Find Link Between Childhood Physical Abuse and Asthma in African Americans

Published on December 17th, 2012

Written by: Associated Press

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NATIONWIDE – Researchers have made a connection between childhood abuse suffered by African-American women and asthma which develops later in their lives.

As part of the Black Women's Health Study at the Slone Epidemiology Center at Boston University, conducted from 1995 to 2011, a total of 28,456 women gave information on physical and sexual abuse suffered before age 11, as well as between the ages of 12 and 18.

The study found that an African-American woman who suffered abuse as a child saw her chances of developing asthma later in life increase 20 percent.

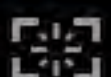
The link between physical abuse and asthma was stronger than that seen between sexual abuse and asthma, researchers said. Physical abuse includes actions intended to injure a child, while sexual abuse includes actions intended for the gratification of the abuser.

"This is the first prospective study to show an association between childhood abuse and adult-onset asthma," Patricia Coogan, the lead author of the report, said in a statement. "The results suggest that chronic stress contributes to asthma onset, even years later."

Coogan said childhood abuse causes stress that leads to "physiological consequences." The stress of living in an abusive situation takes a toll on the body, specifically "on the immune system and on airway development."

"Given the high prevalence of asthma and of childhood abuse in the United States, the association is of significant public health importance," said Coogan, a senior epidemiologist at the Slone Epidemiology Center and an associate professor of epidemiology at the Boston University School of Public Health.

The prevalence of asthma among Americans increased from 7.3 percent, or approximately 20.3 million people, in 2001 to 8.2 percent, or 24.6 million people, in 2009.



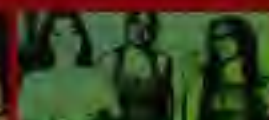
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Conquest

Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide**Andrea Smith**

CONQUEST

Written by Andrea Smith and published by South End Press, *Conquest: Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide* places Native American women at the center of the analysis of sexual violence, challenging both conventional definitions of the term and conventional responses to the problem.

Beginning with the impact of the abuses inflicted on Native American children at state-sanctioned boarding schools from the 1880s to the 1980s, Smith expands our conception of violence to include the widespread appropriation of Indian cultural practices by whites and other non-Natives; environmental racism; and population control. Smith deftly connects these and other examples of historical and contemporary colonialism to the high rates of violence against Native American women-as a group, the poorest women in the US, and the most likely to suffer from poverty-related illnesses and to survive rape and partner abuse.

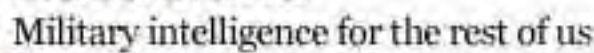
By focusing on the impact of sexual violence on Native American women, Smith articulates an agenda that is compelling to feminists, Native Americans, other people of color, and all who are committed to creating viable alternatives to state-based "solutions."

Conquest is a 2005 winner of the Gustavus Meyer Award for Human Rights.

All the proceeds from Conquest are donated to INCITE!

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The Roots of Sexual Abuse in the Military

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Female 2-star heads Air Force sex abuse prevention

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Manuel Balce Ceneta

FILE - In this Aug. 4, 2008 file photo, then-Brig. Gen. Margaret Woodward is seen at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. The Air Force is putting a female two-star general in charge of a reorganized sexual assault prevention office. That elevates the status of a group whose previous leader was a lieutenant colonel who was arrested last month on charges of sexual battery. He was removed from the position, and the Air Force said Friday that it was raising the standing of the office by putting Maj. Gen. Margaret H. Woodward in charge. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta, File)

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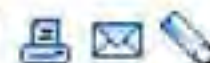
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Morning Show → Veteran Homelessness, Sexual Abuse Major Problems for Women in Military

Tags: women in combat, News, Culture, US

Ric Young

Mar 1, 2013 10:27



Homeless woman. iStockphoto/Thinkstock.

WASHINGTON -- Female veteran's homelessness and rampant sexual abuse in the military are coming to light as House hearings are held to focus on the twin problems.

Host Ric Young talks with Captain Lori Manning, Director of the Women in Military Project in Washington, DC:



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Manning talks about how homelessness for veterans has been a persistent problem for years, but it is only now that women's issues with veteran homelessness has been getting more coverage. As for sexual abuse within the military, she says that some of it is a problem with training: people who are inexperienced are given drill sergeant responsibilities, and military newbies are often pressured to obey even unreasonable orders, not knowing that some requests are illegal.

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Ex-Bengals Cheerleader Sarah Jones and Mother Plead 'Not Guilty' in Student Sex Case



Ben-Gals cheerleader Sarah Jones was indicted on first degree sexual abuse charges yesterday, as well as her mother, Cheryl Jones, on a tampering with evidence charge. (ABC)

AUTO START: ON OFF



By GILLIAN MOHNEY
April 2, 2012

A former Bengals cheerleader accused of sex abuse, and her mother, a middle school principal who allegedly covered up the crime, entered pleas of not guilty during their arraignment Monday in Kenton County, Ky.

Sarah Jones, one-time captain of the Cincinnati Ben-Gals cheerleading squad and a former high school teacher, is accused of sexually abusing a student and unlawful use of electronic means to induce a minor to engage in sexual activities.

Sarah Jones' mother, Cheryl Jones, is accused of tampering with evidence in connection with her daughter's case. Cheryl Jones is currently suspended from her job as middle school principal pending a further investigation.

Both Sarah and Cheryl Jones were arrested following a grand jury investigation into the charges.

At the courthouse on Monday the pair was joined by a dozen



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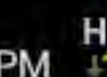
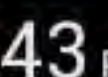
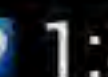
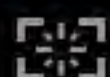
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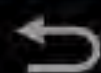
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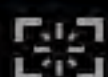


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US military faces second sex assault case in as many weeks

15 May 2013 Last updated at 16:35

For the second time in as many weeks, a US serviceman assigned to prevent military sex assaults has been accused of sexual misconduct.

The Army sergeant at Fort Hood, Texas, is under investigation for alleged abusive sexual contact, maltreatment of subordinates, assault and pandering.

Last week, an Air Force officer with similar responsibilities was arrested for allegedly groping a woman.

The latest incident has prompted fresh uproar from lawmakers.

No charges have been filed against the sergeant, who was an equal opportunity adviser and co-ordinator of a programme to prevent sexual harassment and assault at the Army's 3rd Corps headquarters in Fort Hood.

'Breakdown in discipline'

But he is under investigation by the Army Criminal Investigation Command.

In a statement, the Army said it would not name the soldier, in order to protect the integrity of the investigation.

Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel is directing all services to retrain and rescreen personnel involved in sexual assault prevention and response programmes, a defence department spokesman said on Tuesday.

The spokesman, George Little, said Mr Hagel was angry and disappointed at "these troubling allegations and the breakdown in discipline and standards they imply".

"This is sickening," Washington state Senator Patty Murray said.

"It's an astonishing reminder that the Pentagon has both a major problem on its



Missouri Senator Claire McCaskill has held up an Air Force nomination over a sexual assault incident

“

This is sickening

Senator Patty Murray



american...



AP

300 x 300

US military forced to face 'crisis' over sexual assault cases ...
independent.co.uk

US military forced to face 'crisis' over **sexual assault** cases ...

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1:47 PM

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Defense Attorney Calls Marine Accused Of Sexual Assault 'The Victim'

By Hayes Brown on May 30, 2013 at 11:49 am

A U.S. Marine accused of sexually assaulting one woman and carrying on a relationship with another in violation of Marine protocol maintains his innocence, with his defense lawyer calling him "the victim" in the case.

Maj. Mark Thompson, a former instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, is accused of engaging in sexual encounters with two enrolled students at the Academy in 2011. Maj. Joseph Grimm, Thompson's defense attorney, told the court that Thompson was the "victim of fabrication," denying his client having fraternized with either midshipmen.

One, Ensign Sarah Stadler, testified that she and Thompson had a relationship of repeated and consensual sexual encounters over the course of her senior year at the Academy.

The other, whose name has not been released but is now a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps, accuses Thompson of taking advantage of her after a day of drinking. "I'm not really sure if I struggled" the alleged victim said during her time on the stand describing the events. "I don't think I did because I was so shocked and confused, like some out-of-body experience." According to both Stadler and the alleged victim, the two were present at Thompson's house on April 30, 2011 for a day that the Marine Corps Times says "allegedly ended with strip poker, sex, and assault."

Grimm denied that the day proceeded as described, saying that the two midshipmen did enter Thompson's house to use the bathroom but left quickly after. Thompson allegedly spend the night with his girlfriend at the time, who is expected to testify later in the court-martial. The Marine faces one count of aggravated sexual assault and indecent acts, for which he faces a potential thirty-year sentence, and three counts of conduct unbecoming an officer.

If the allegations prove to be true, Thompson's case would be another example of the ongoing trend of sexual assault in the military that has finally reached the attention of the general public. In just the last month, the Air Force's top official in charge of preventing assaults was charged with sexual battery and a sergeant with a similar position at the battalion was placed under investigation for allegedly forcing a subordinate into prostitution.

The first of these reports came just one day before the Pentagon revealed that an estimated 26,000 instances of sexual assault occurred in 2012, according to its latest report. The military's sexual assault problem has been kicked up to the highest levels already, with the Pentagon and White House working alongside Congress to help solve the crisis.

President Obama addressed the issue when speaking at the Naval Academy's commencement last week, saying sexual assault has "no place in the greatest military on Earth." Secretary of Defense



(Credit: Shutterstock)



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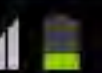
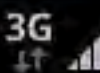
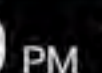
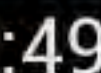
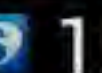
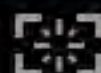
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President Obama addressed the issue when speaking at the Naval Academy's commencement last week, saying sexual assault has "no place in the greatest military on Earth." Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel made similar statements the next day at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. "Sexual harassment and sexual assault in the military are a profound betrayal of sacred oaths and sacred trusts," Hagel said, adding, "This scourge must be stamped out. We are all accountable and responsible for ensuring that this happens. We cannot fail the Army or America."



(Credit: Shutterstock)





While it's estimated that 1 out of 6 American women will be raped and/or sexually assaulted in her lifetime, [more than 1 in 3 Native American women](#) will be raped in her lifetime. A Native woman is 2.5 times more likely to be raped and/or sexually assaulted than other women in the U.S.



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Rape on the reservation is a women's issue that continues to fall through the cracks, despite ongoing efforts to bring it to national and international attention:

- In 2007, Amnesty International published its findings in the study

["Maze of Injustice: The Failure to Protect Indigenous Women from Sexual Violence in the USA."](#)

- That same year, NPR did a two-part series on the subject: ["Rape Cases On Indian Lands Go Uninvestigated"](#) and ["Legal Hurdles Stall Rape Cases on Native Lands."](#)

The NPR series chronicled horrific stories either ignored by law enforcement or unreported because they have become commonplace: a 20-year-old woman raped and beaten by a group of men, then locked in a bathroom, eventually dying from the assault; a 14-year-old girl who accepted a ride home from a woman she knew and was subsequently raped by the woman's husband and his four friends; and a teenager walking home who was abducted and raped by a man in a passing car and dumped in a ditch.

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**The Invisible War**

Movie

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Basic Info

Genre: Documentary
Studio: Chain Camera Pictures
Release Date: June 22nd, 2012
Short Description: A GROUNDBREAKING INVESTIGATION INTO THE EPIDEMIC OF RAPE IN THE U.S. MILITARY
Description: www.InvisibleWarMovie.com

Detailed Info

Directed By: Kirby Dick

Plot Outline: Today, a female soldier in Iraq and Afghanistan is more likely to be raped than killed or injured by enemy fire.

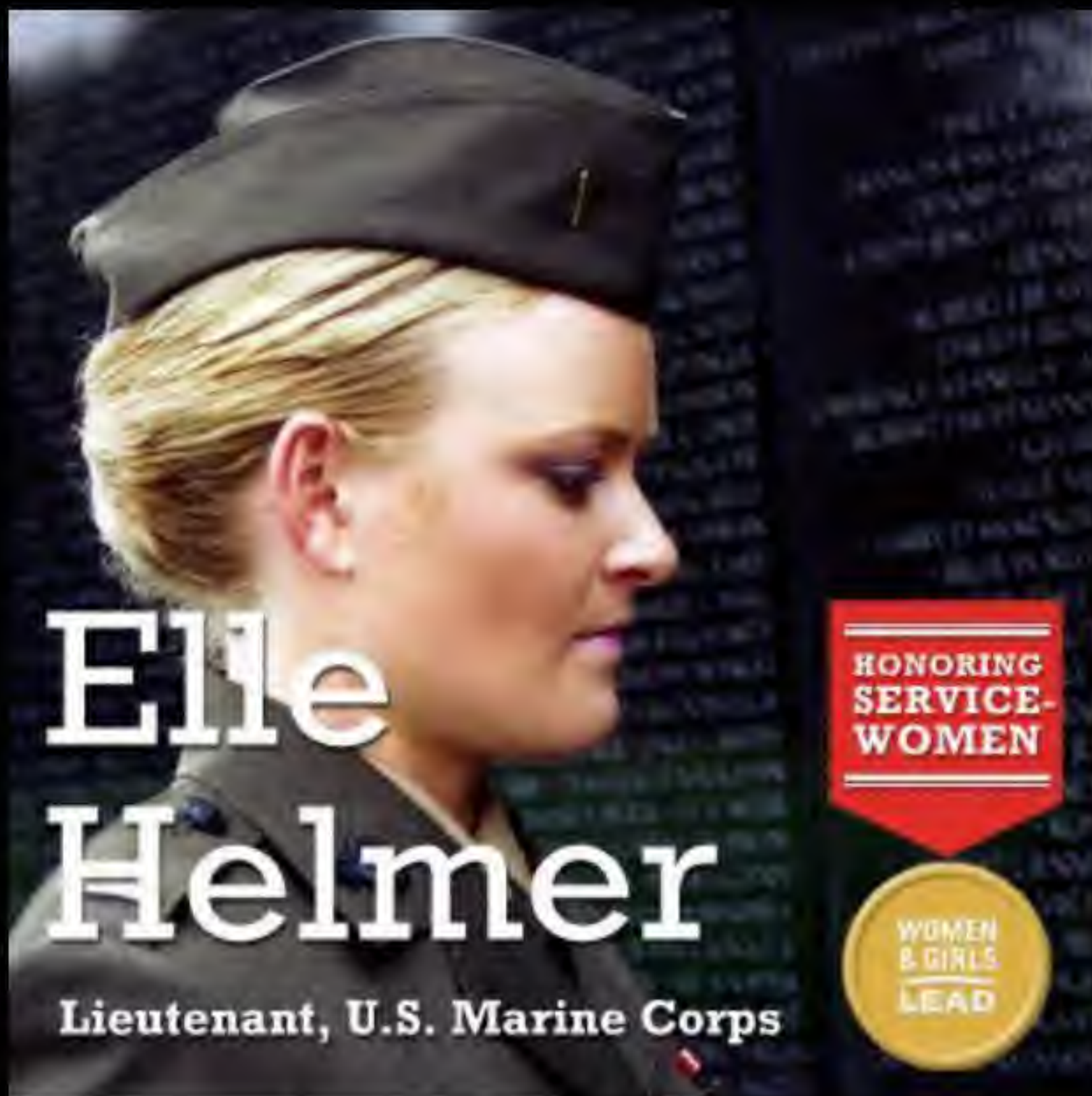
Every day American service women and men, who have pledged their lives to protect our country, are being raped and sexually assaulted. Not by the enemy, but by their fellow soldiers, commanders, and officers – by the people whose job it is to protect them. [See More](#)

Awards: Audience Award Winner, Sundance Film Festival, US Documentary

Description: Today, a female soldier in Iraq and Afghanistan is more likely to be raped than killed or injured by enemy fire. Every day American service women and men, who have pledged their lives to protect our country, are being raped and sexually assaulted. Not by the enemy, but by their fellow soldiers, commanders, and officers – by the people whose job it is to protect them. THE INVISIBLE WAR centers around the stories and experiences of Military Sexual Trauma survivors with the courage to come forward, tell their stories, and let us into their lives. The filmmakers strongly believe that The Invisible War will shed light on these egregious acts and the larger systemic issue. The intent of the film is not only to bring much needed attention to the experiences of these brave service members, but also to ignite public demand for legislation to protect the next generation from rape and sexual assault and the life long devastation that follows.

Produced By: Amy Ziering, Tanner King Barklow

Facebook: facebook.com/invisiblewarmovie



403 x 403

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US Catholic Archdiocese to reveal confidential files

Thursday, January 31, 2013 - 09:02 AM

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The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles is to reveal 30,000 pages of confidential personnel files without blacking out the names of church leaders who knew about sexual abuse by priests.

Archdiocese lawyer Michael Hennigan said the church had given up on its plan to redact the names and the files would be turned over to lawyers for abuse victims.

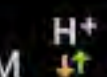
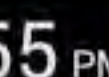
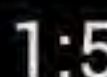
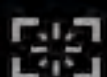
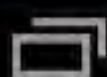
The Associated Press and the Los Angeles Times, along with victims, went to court to force the archdiocese to reveal the names.

The archdiocese agreed to a \$660m (€488m) settlement with victims in 2007 that included revealing contents of the files, but wanted to keep many names secret, citing privacy rights of priests and others.

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World news

🕒 Tuesday 24 July 2012 19.13 BST

US church official jailed for sexual abuse cover-up

Roman Catholic monsignor sentenced to three to six years in prison after being accused of transferring problem priests



📷 Monsignor William Lynn who has been jailed for three to six years. Photograph: Tim Shaffer/Reuters

Associated Press

A Roman Catholic monsignor who became the first US church official to be convicted for covering up sex abuse claims against priests has been sentenced to three to six years in prison.

Monsignor William Lynn, former Archdiocese of Philadelphia secretary for clergy, handled priest assignments and child sexual assault complaints from 1992 to 2004. He was accused of transferring problem priests in one of the country's largest parishes and keeping complaints out of the public eye.

"You knew full well what was right, Monsignor Lynn, but you chose wrong," Judge Teresa Sarmina said.

Lynn was the first US church official convicted for his handling of abuse claims in the sex scandal that

Tuesday 24 July 2012 19:13 BST

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"You knew full well what was right, Monsignor Lynn, but you chose wrong," Judge Teresa Sarmina said.

Lynn was the first US church official convicted for his handling of abuse claims in the sex scandal that has rocked the Catholic church for more than a decade.

A jury convicted the 61-year-old Lynn last month of felony child endangerment for his oversight of now-defrocked priest Edward Avery, who is serving up to five years in prison after pleading guilty to sexually assaulting an altar boy in church.

"I did not intend any harm to come to [Avery's victim]," Lynn said. "My best was not good enough to stop that harm."

The scandal has forced changes in the church. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops has spent tens of millions of dollars on background checks for workers, assistance programmes for victims and training for children and teachers on identifying abuse. The bishops have also pledged to remove all



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SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE RANKS

The Roots of Sexual Abuse in the Military

By Mark Thompson | May 17, 2013 | 83 Comments

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Even before the Army confirmed a third military sexual-assault preventer had been implicated in sexual harassment in the past two weeks late Thursday – the charges ranged from **sexual battery**, to **pandering**, to **stalking** an ex-wife – the Army's top general, and the commander-in chief, said they've had enough.

Late Thursday, the Army said Lieut. Colonel Darin Haas, chief of the Sexual Harassment and Assault Response Prevention/Equal Opportunity program manager at Fort Campbell, Ky., has been booted from that post following a dispute with his ex-wife. Local police arrested Haas Wednesday night and charged him with stalking her and sending threatening emails in violation of a court-issued protective order.

Sexual assault in the ranks "is going to make — and has made — the military less effective than it can be," President Obama said at a meeting of the nation's military leaders to focus on the issue. "It is dangerous to our national security."

Only hours earlier, General Ray Odierno, the Army chief of staff, fired a volley at his troops on the subject. "The Army is failing in its efforts to combat sexual assault and sexual harassment," Odierno said in a written **message**. "It is up to every one of us, civilian and Soldier, general officer to private, to solve this problem within our ranks."

The Pentagon is scrambling to try to turn the situation around, but there is a growing sense in the building that the series of scandals is beyond the military's control. Defense officials desperately want the string of bad news to stop, but – like IEDs in Afghanistan – the chance of the next one blowing up is equal parts action and wishful thinking.



MARK WILSON / GETTY IMAGES

U.S. President Barack Obama met with Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey at the White House in Washington D.C., on May 16, 2013.

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Latest From

US elementary school teacher arrested for sexual abuse of 19 children



Former LAUSD elementary school teacher Mark Berndt, 61, faces 23 counts of lewd conduct and child abuse.

An American elementary school teacher has been detained near Los Angeles for allegedly committing sexual abuse and lewd acts involving 19 children.

Thu Jan 24, 2013 7:38AM GMT

6

Comment

Prosecutors filed 15 charges against 57-year-old teacher Robert Pimental on Wednesday involving 12 victims while police detectives note that he has also abused seven more children and an adult for which no charges have yet been filed, *The Los Angeles Times* reports Thursday.

Pimental, a Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) fourth grade teacher, is accused of "committing lewd acts and continual sexual abuse [fondling] of numerous students," the report states, quoting Los Angeles Police Capt. Fabian Lizzaraga.

The allegations, it adds, date back to March 2012, when LAUSD officials replaced principal of the elementary school where Pimental worked as it opened a probe into alleged sexual misconduct by what they would only refer to as a "male teacher."

According to the report, the case is one "of the most serious" sexual abuse cases at a LAUSD elementary school since a similar case last year involving a teacher at the school district's Miramonte Elementary.

"Former Miramonte teacher Mark Berndt, 61, faces 23 counts of lewd conduct and is being held in lieu of \$23-million bail," the paper adds.

Berndt, according to the daily, has been accused of "open



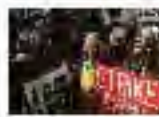
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- 2) Iran is not a democracy and holds sham elections
- 3) Iran is a democracy but Iranian candidates are controlled by two political groups

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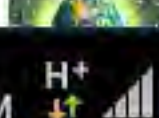
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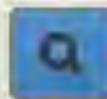
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A.M. national and world news links: Citadel also has child sex-abuse scandal; President Obama firm with China at summit; shooting near White House

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By **Cliff Pinckard, The Plain Dealer**
on November 13, 2011 at 5:00 AM

National news

Citadel took no action after report of child sex abuse ([Los Angeles Times](#))

Police identify man with possible information in shooting near White House ([Washington Post](#))

Occupy San Francisco: Two police officers injured during march ([Los Angeles Times](#))

As 9/11 remains are identified, grief is renewed ([New York Times](#))

Remembering Flight 587, 10 years later ([Fox News](#))

Sides of faith collide at Ford Field prayer rally ([Detroit Free Press](#))

Father of missing 2-year-old grieves as hope dims ([Seattle Times](#))

Temporary order prevents judge videotaped beating teen daughter from visiting younger daughter ([Corpus Christi Caller Times](#))



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Kathy Kmonicek, Associated Press

A woman touches the name of Ferando Perez on the memorial wall Saturday during the American Airlines Flight 587 Tenth Anniversary Memorial in Belle Harbor in the borough of Queens, N.Y.

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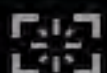
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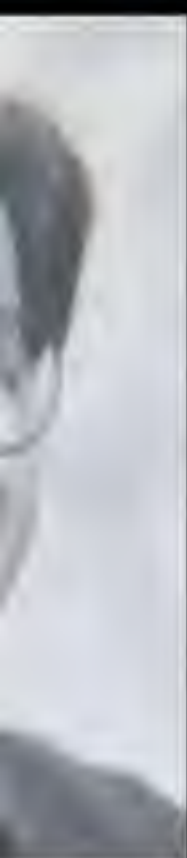
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2:16 PM

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The Culture of Silence

Nov 14th, 2011 @ 01:22 pm · Anita

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The Sandusky Case illustrates well the prevalence of child sexual abuse and the pervasive culture of silence surrounding these crimes. The American Medical Association refers to sexual abuse as a "silent, violent epidemic." The filing of charges against former Penn State University football coach Jerry Sandusky has led to a mass influx of media coverage. Tragically the ongoing rape and molestation of numerous children, whom Mr. Sandusky accessed through his charity for troubled young boys is now being referred to as a "Sex Scandal."

It is regrettable that it takes a high profile crime to draw attention to an issue that impacts thousands of children each day. Even more tragic is the fact that a coach, in a position of respect and authority, as well as a university with a football legacy are involved and are defying the societal myths about perpetrators of child sexual abuse.

Perpetrators of child sexual abuse gain access to children and use their positions of trust in many instances to be able to abuse and molest without detection. Perpetrators are skilled at creating a false sense of trust and often continue committing crimes just below the radar. What makes this case unique, however, is the attention focused on the inaction of many individuals and university officials who could have intervened more than a decade ago to prevent further abuse and address the needs of those who had already been victimized. Indeed, their silence served as a message condoning the abuse to the perpetrator, the victims, and the community.

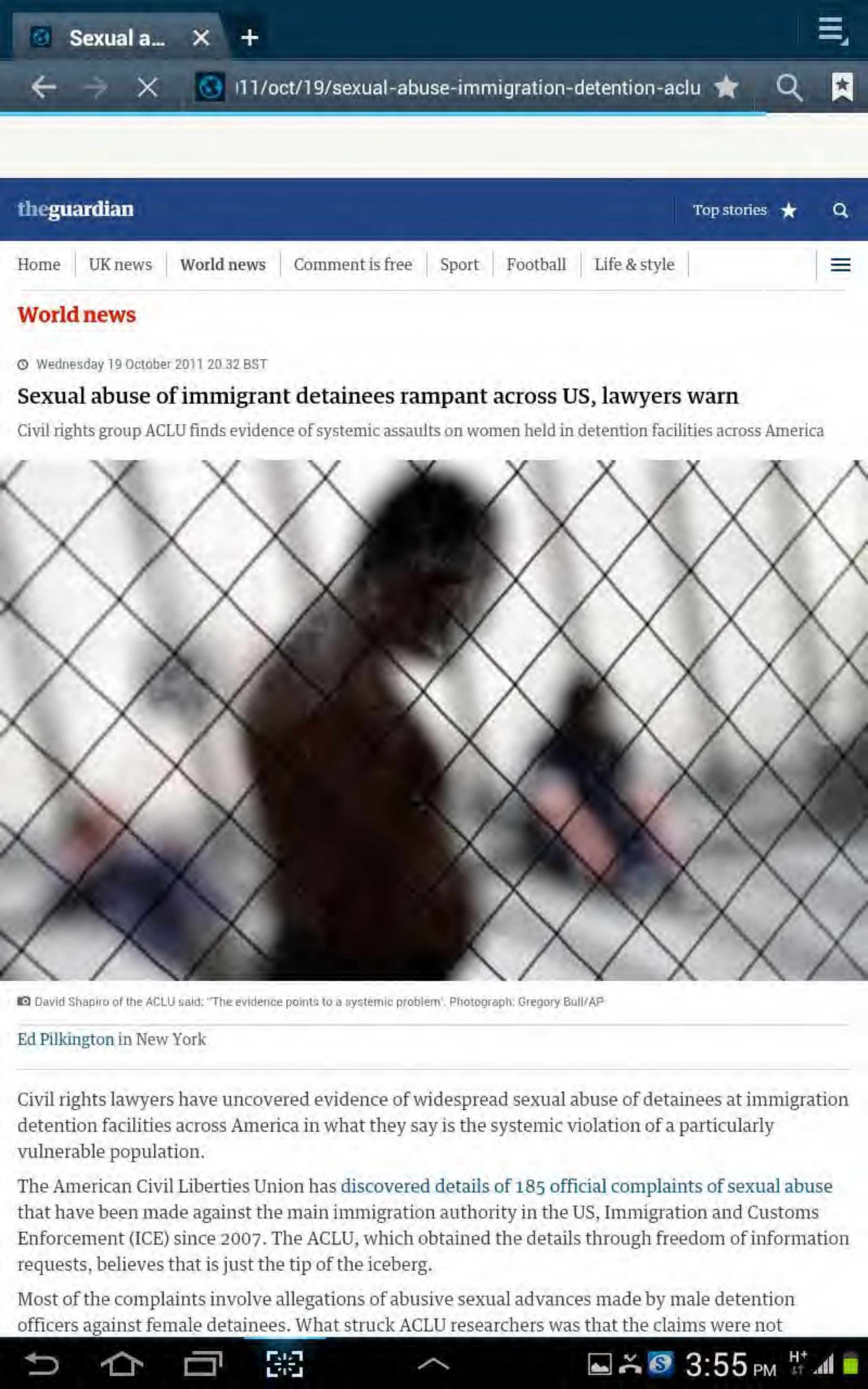
Sexual abuse against children, as well as adults is preventable. Our challenge as a society is to shift the responsibility for these crimes firmly where it belongs, with the offender! Until we truly step up and speak out against sexual abuse, and hold perpetrators accountable, regardless of their position or status in the community, we cannot truly begin to address the root causes.

The following testimony is taken from the findings of the Investigating Grand Jury:

- The assistant principal at a local high school testified that several students were left alone with Sandusky, who was "clingy" and "needy" when a young man broke off a relationship with him.

We must educate adults about red flags and grooming tactics and give them the tools and confidence to question inappropriate behavior, regardless of criminality.

- Testifying about the report of rape made to them by a witness, Athletic Director Timothy Curley and Senior Vice President for Finance and Business Gary Schultz characterized the assault as "horsing around" and "inappropriate sexual conduct."



World news

🕒 Wednesday 19 October 2011 20.32 BST

Sexual abuse of immigrant detainees rampant across US, lawyers warn

Civil rights group ACLU finds evidence of systemic assaults on women held in detention facilities across America

📷 David Shapiro of the ACLU said: "The evidence points to a systemic problem". Photograph: Gregory Bull/AP

Ed Pilkington in New York

Civil rights lawyers have uncovered evidence of widespread sexual abuse of detainees at immigration detention facilities across America in what they say is the systemic violation of a particularly vulnerable population.

The American Civil Liberties Union has discovered details of 185 official complaints of sexual abuse that have been made against the main immigration authority in the US, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) since 2007. The ACLU, which obtained the details through freedom of information requests, believes that is just the tip of the iceberg.

Most of the complaints involve allegations of abusive sexual advances made by male detention officers against female detainees. What struck ACLU researchers was that the claims were not



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The Facts of Prescription Drug Abuse Don't Sync with Many Teens' — »

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"What Does Substance Abuse Do to American Productivity?" Asks Narconon Spokesperson

Published November 25, 2010

Americans have long had a proud heritage of being hard workers. After all, those who settled America were Scandinavian fishermen, German ironworkers and Italian factory workers. But growing numbers of Americans abusing drugs and alcohol have taken their toll on companies and employers.

Currently more than 70 percent of those who abuse drugs or alcohol hold a job. Included in this statistic of abuse are both illicit drugs and legal drugs like alcohol and prescription drugs. Quest Diagnostic, a company that provides drug testing for employers, as reported that the use of prescription opiates such as Vicodin and OxyContin have increased by 40 percent since 2005. In just one year, this statistic climbed 18 percent.



When employees refuse to admit that they have a drug or alcohol problem, employers are actually in a unique position to apply pressure to initiate rehabilitation. Narconon is an international organization dedicated to helping young people avoid substance abuse and rehabilitating those who have become addicted. Drug testing programs, either random or post-accident, can reveal a problem that the employee may not seek help for, no matter what consequences he is facing in his or her personal life. Faced with hard evidence, an employee can be helped to enter an effective rehabilitation program.

Those abusing substances in the workplace have been shown to be 60 percent more likely to cause industrial accidents — accidents that can not only harm or kill themselves but can also cause injury or death of other employees and property damage. Some of these incidents hit the headlines like the Exxon Valdez disaster, the 1981 crash of a jet on the aircraft carrier the USS Nimitz and the 1987 wreck of an Amtrack train in Maryland. Thousands of others just get buried in the files.

And it's not just accidents that a company risks when employees abuse substances. In one study, drug-abusing employees admitted that they had sold drugs to fellow employees and stolen from co-workers to finance their drug habits.

With the right drug rehabilitation program, those who have lost everything to addiction can be brought back to a sober, productive lifestyle once again. The Narconon drug and alcohol rehabilitation program is a long-term, residential program that enables seven out of ten graduates to stay clean and sober after return to home and work.

No surprise to employers, those who abused alcohol or drugs at work admitted that they were less productive as a result. Recent estimates put the cost of lost productivity to employers at \$197 billion a year.

Employees can not only help an employee get back on the job. They can also help save an addicted person's life.

For more information on Narconon drug rehabilitation services, visit www.narconon.org

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U.S. Cocaine, Meth Use on the Decline, Kerlikowske Tells International Commission

By Join Together Staff | May 10, 2012 | 3 Comments | Filed in Drugs, Government & Treatment



Use of drugs, particularly cocaine and methamphetamine, is on the decline in the United States, according to U.S. National Drug Control Policy Director R. Gil Kerlikowske. He spoke this week at the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission.

Kerlikowske said American drug use has already dropped by one-third since its peak in the 1970s. Cocaine use has declined 40 percent, and methamphetamine use by 50 percent, in the past five years, he added.

He said the Obama Administration is focusing on placing criminals driven by an underlying substance use disorder into supervised treatment, in order to break the cycle of drug use and crime, [UPI](#) reports. He noted 120,000 people in the United States are diverted into treatment, instead of incarceration, each year.

Kerlikowske discussed other public health initiatives to reduce drug use, including Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment, which helps health institutions recognize the signs and symptoms of drug addiction early.

"The Affordable Care Act is also revolutionary, because for the first time, it makes drug treatment a required benefit for all Americans who suffer from substance abuse disorders – nothing short of a revolution in how we deal with substance use in the U.S.," he said in a [statement](#).

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Youth Prescription Drug Abuse

As American Youth Suffer Higher Prescription Drug Statistics, Narconon Has Found a Way to Reverse this Damaging Trend

Narconon centers around the world have a drug education curriculum that has proven itself effective in not only changing how young people think about drugs, but also how many of them indulge in substance abuse.

You don't have to look far to find out how many of America's young people are abusing prescription drugs. Fortunately, plenty of people are paying attention.

This includes the CDC, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They recently published the results of a 2009 survey of 16,460 students in grades 9 through 12 from across the US. This survey showed that out of every five children, one of them had abused a prescription drug such as OxyContin, Percocet, Vicodin, Adderall, Ritalin or Xanax. Among white 12th grade students, the rate of students abusing these drugs hit one in four.

As a measure of how fast prescription drug abuse is growing, in 2001, the Department of Justice reported that just 9 percent of high school seniors had abused a prescription drug. All these drugs are known for their addictiveness. Some of them are also known for their ability to kill, particularly OxyContin. As an opioid, OxyContin can suppress respiration to the point that a susceptible person or one who gets too high a dosage will not survive the experience.

"Monitoring the Future" Further Reports Annually on Drug Use by Teens

The "Monitoring the Future" report has come out every year from the University of Michigan, reporting on the substance abuse habits and attitudes of teens. The 2010 report states "It seems likely that young people are less concerned about the dangers of using [psychotherapeutic drugs like amphetamines, sedatives, tranquilizers, and narcotics other than heroin] outside of medical regimen, likely because they are widely used for legitimate purposes. Also, prescription psychotherapeutic drugs are now being advertised directly to the consumer, which implies both that they are used widely and are safe to use." This report also states that approximately 40 percent of high school seniors feel that it is easy or fairly easy to acquire prescription opiates to abuse.



Aggressive Treatment of Pain Puts More Drugs on the Street

Since 1995, as there began to be a more aggressive attitude toward pain management by medical personnel, the opioid drugs in circulation increased and the number of people abusing these drugs followed. Between 1995 and 2010, opioid painkiller abuse deaths increased ten-fold. This class of drug ended up outstripping heroin and cocaine combined as a killer. Rural American areas such as Kentucky, West Virginia and Tennessee were hit particularly hard. Some people who would never touch heroin feel that a prescription opioid is more acceptable. But ironically, when the price of illicitly-obtained prescription drugs skyrocketed, many of those who had become addicted found themselves using heroin, which was cheaper.

Keeping Young People off Drugs, Prescription and Otherwise

It would be dangerous to assume that teens and even younger children know what decisions to make regarding the abuse of prescription drugs. A report from USA Today described the phenomenon of "pharming," a party during which young people trade and consume prescription pills they may have harvested from family and friends' medicine chests. A report from Australia stated that children were swapping prescriptions in the schoolyard in increasing numbers. The drugs most commonly traded were Ritalin, pain medication and diet pills. And in February 2011, a sixth grade student in Arizona arrived at school with prescription drugs in his backpack which he then handed out to his fellow students.

Narconon Steps up to Reduce Youth Drug Abuse through a Better Educational Program

For this reason, Narconon centers around the world have provided drug education services to schools, clubs, civic groups and children's center for decades. With the help of experienced Narconon staff like Bobby Wiggins, a comprehensive drug education curriculum has been developed that covers a wide range of facts children need to know to stay safe.

Some drug education programs try to scare children with stories of people who have died of overdoses. Other programs insist that kids not do drugs but omit any logical reasons why they should make that decision. Observing that these tactics did not work, Narconon's Bobby Wiggins set out to develop a program that would get real results: changed opinions about drug abuse and lower drug use statistics. And he accomplished that goal.



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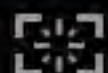
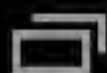


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Drugs of Abuse Resources

In the 1960s a large number of people embraced drugs like marijuana, amphetamines and psychedelics. In 1973, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration was created to enforce federal drug laws. Cocaine made a huge re-entrance onto American soil during the 1970s and held many Americans with in its grasp. Crack cocaine would follow some years later and show how detrimental drug abuse could be to our country.

Recreational and street drugs, as well as prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs, can all be used and abused by athletes and/or individuals in society. Steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs have been and continue to be abused. So what drug classes are abused and why?

- ▶ Narcotics
- ▶ Stimulants
- ▶ Depressants
- ▶ Cannabis
- ▶ Hallucinogens
- ▶ Inhalants
- ▶ Steroids



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Which of these drugs is being abused the most, and why? What are the side effects, short term and long term? What is banned or prohibited by my organization or the organization that I would like to become part of?



Get Answers in the REC

Drug Free Sport's Resource Exchange Center (REC) is a subscription-based service that exists to provide up-to-date, confidential information, interactive tools and educational materials to empower athletes to make healthy and responsible decisions.

REC membership grants you access to a comprehensive database of information on **drugs of abuse** and how they relate to you. The REC also provides information on the following:

- ▶ Anabolic Steroids
- ▶ Ergonomic Aids: EPO, Diuretics, Central Nervous System stimulants
- ▶ Prescription Drugs
- ▶ Alcohol
- ▶ Over-the-Counter Drugs

If you are an athlete, parent, coach, athletic trainer or sports program administrator looking for more information on drugs of abuse, [click here to learn about REC membership](#).



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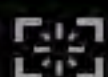


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- ▶ Alcohol
- ▶ Over-the-Counter Drugs



Another American Legend Gone: Implications of Prescription Drug Addiction and Abuse in America

PRESCRIPTION DRUG ADDICTION

PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

MICHAEL JACKSON

SLEEPING MEDICATION

PILL ADDICTION



Another legend dies due to drug use. Not illegal drug use mind you, just prescription medication. Though the autopsy reports for Michael Jackson do not yet show what the pop singer passed away from, the countless **prescription medications** Jackson was taking are suspect.

Another example is 28 year old Heath Ledger who passed away about a year and a half ago due to an overdose of sleeping medication. The medication Ledger was taking may have just been one pill too many. Subsequently, the actor stopped breathing and was found dead in his apartment.

It seems that only when the young and famous start dying the issues come to the surface. Both Jackson and Ledger are great examples of the issues surrounding prescription drug use.

The biggest issue with **prescription drug use** is that they are prescription. How does that make sense? Let me explain. It is quite easy to justify using a painkiller now and again or an anti-anxiety medication. The **prescription** was prescribed by a physician, it is for a medicinal purpose, and the individual using it is supposedly in pain- whether it's physical or psychological. In American society today most people are taking some sort of mood or pain altering drug.

The question then arises- is everyone in some sort of distress? Statistically is that even possible? Most statisticians would say the answer is no. In more cases than not, medication usage is a conscious decision which is made when all alternatives have not been taken into account. The result: a society runs on artificial relief.

The unfortunate issue with **prescription drug medication** is quite simply it is addictive. It's also relatively easy to get. Physicians are more and more willing to give artificial help for a temporary problem to their patients. The idea of going to a chiropractor for a backache or obtaining counseling from a therapist prior to writing a prescription does not occur to most physicians. On one hand they cannot be blamed as western medicine dictates prescription writing is the cure to ailments. On the other hand, physicians should be more responsible in terms of to whom they are giving over medications, how much is being prescribed and how often.

To detail the point further in 2002 a total of 3,340,000,000 outpatient prescriptions were filled by Americans. That's an average of twelve prescriptions for every man, women, and child in America. The trend of medication prescription can be seen when looking at the numbers below:

- 2002: 3,340,000,000
- 2001: 3,200,000,000
- 2000: 2,979,000,000
- 1999: 2,821,000,000
- 1998: 2,523,000,000



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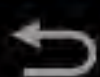
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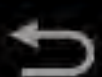
Workplace Drug Abuse



Sixty percent of the world's illegal drugs are consumed by American drug users. Two million Americans use heroin, six million use cocaine, 18 million have **alcohol abuse** problems and an estimated 23 million people use marijuana at least four times in a week, according to the American Council for Drug Education.

Of all drug users, 74.8 percent are employed and active in the workplace. This means that 12.9 million individuals actively use drugs in the workforce, according to the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA). Using drugs impairs decision-making abilities as well as physically impairs people. This is a deadly concoction when on the job. In fact, between 10 and 20 percent of American workers who die at work have a positive result when tested for drugs or alcohol. A study by OSHA states that the most dangerous occupations, such as mining and construction, also have the highest rates of drug use by their employees.

Employers suffer from hiring **substance abusers** in many ways. Not only do they run the risk of having deadly or dangerous accidents occur, but substance abusers also cost employers money and hurt them financially. Substance abusers are proven to be poor quality employees who:



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Health

Prescription Drugs Kill Over 100,000 People Each Year, Are You Being Medicated Incorrectly?

May 7, 2013 by Elle M. White

"Death by medicine is a twenty-first century epidemic, and America's war on drugs is clearly directed at the wrong enemy." -Dr. Joseph Mercola [2]

I have briefly focused on mushrooms and cannabis as medicine sources. Now, it is only fair to shine the spotlight on the other side of the medicinal spectrum: prescription drugs. One could go through and list the pros and cons of each individual prescription drug or, to save some time, one could first approach prescription drugs as a whole. Doing so exposes an alarming truth, ringing louder than the individual benefits of each drug. Prescription drugs are currently responsible for more deaths annually than illegal drugs. According to Tom Frieden, the CDC director himself, "it's a big problem, and it's getting worse [3]."



Out of the 783,936 annual deaths from conventional medicine mistakes, approximately 106,000 of those are the result of prescription drug use [1]. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, two-hundred and ninety people in the United States are killed by prescription drugs every day [4].

Even if prescription drugs do not literally kill a patient though, they slowly kill their mind and body. This alters their ability to innately feel deeply and compassionately, the patient can be stripped piece by piece of his inner awareness and inner consciousness, the very essence of their being.

Death by Rx can be sentenced in the form of many, often times subtle masks. Since it happens slowly, the clouding of the patient's once clear brain goes unnoticed as the fog sets in so densely that he is no longer able

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How To Deal With The Stigma of Addiction

Posted on [April 15, 2013](#) by [Luxury Treatment Center](#)



The stigma of addiction can be very damaging. In 1966, the American Medical Association classified alcohol abuse as a disease. Eight years later, the same was done for drug abuse. However, many people still consider addiction a matter of "willpower" or a moral failing. When you say "drug addict" to the average person, they immediately conjure images of a homeless man, living under a bridge, sticking needles in his arm.

The stigma of addiction has been around for a long time. Alcoholics and drug addicts are usually scorned by their communities, and celebrities with addictions are often exploited by the media. Even though the government considers addiction a disease, efforts like the "War on Drugs" brand addicts as criminals. Even within the recovery community there is a tendency to, sometimes unconsciously, play into those stereotypes. People in the rooms of AA or NA will refer to themselves as "junkies," and we call a positive urinalysis "dirty."

This stigma of addiction prevents many addicts from seeking treatment, and causes them and their families to be too ashamed to ask for help. The stress of hiding can often cause other medical situations for the addicts and their families.

How to deal with the stigma of addiction: Communicate

One of the ways to deal with the stigma of addiction is to communicate with close friends and family about the nature of your condition. Some people, even within your own family, may avoid talking to you or spending time with you simply because they don't want to do or say anything that may upset you. Their knowledge about the disease may be limited. It is important to talk to friends and family so they have a better understanding of your illness.

How to deal with the stigma of addiction: Know the time and place

While you should not be ashamed of your addiction, it is important to recognize when to talk about it and when it is better to keep it to yourself. Many times, people who you come into





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NEWS

06.20.2012
 Drugfree.org: Prescription Drug Abuse Fueling Rise in Heroin Addiction

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Prescription Drug Abuse Fueling Rise in Heroin Addiction

By Join Together Staff | June 20, 2012 | Leave a comment | Filed in Drugs, Prescription Drugs & Youth



The increase in prescription drug abuse is fueling a rise in heroin addiction, [NBC News](#) reports. A growing number of young people who start abusing expensive prescription drugs are switching to heroin, which is cheaper and easier to buy.

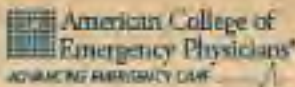
Prescription pain pills cost \$20 to \$60, while heroin costs \$3 to \$10 a bag. Many young people who use heroin start off snorting the drug, and within weeks, most start shooting up, according to the news report.

"Kids in the city know not to touch it, but the message never got out to the suburbs," said Chicago Police Capt. John Roberts, whose son died of a heroin overdose. He founded the Heroin Epidemic Relief Organization to help other families deal with teen heroin use.

In 2009, the most recent year for which national data is available, 510 young adults, ages 15 to 24, died of a heroin overdose, up from 198 in 1999. Almost 90 percent of teens who are addicted to heroin are white.

"It's hard to talk about the heroin problem without talking about the prescription drug problem," said Rafael Lemaitre, of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

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Asking "What Is Substance Abuse Disorder?" Leads to Understanding and Prevention

Posted on [October 30, 2012](#) by [admin](#)

The taboo and misunderstanding surrounding the term "substance abuse" have plagued society for decades. Few disorders have struck a more despondent note or caused greater emotional distress within the hearts of those directly affected, and those left to pick up the pieces.

Although far from finding a solution or even an exact explanation for a disorder that tears the lives of individuals and families apart, medical science continues to make breakthroughs in substance abuse treatment. Today, more than ever before, numerous methods and approaches of treatment and prevention are gradually becoming available to rehab facilities the world over.



Fortunately, the medical field has defined substance abuse clearly within the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). The DSM contains definitions of all psychological disorders known to adults and children and is used by medical professionals to diagnose psychiatric illnesses. By including "substance abuse" in the DSM, the medical profession demonstrates the consensus that substance abuse is an illness much like cancer or diabetes.

According to the DSM, "substance abuse disorder" can be diagnosed using two sub-categories: "substance abuse" and "substance dependence." One can suffer from "substance abuse disorder" and only exhibit symptoms from one category, or both. The differences are nuanced and contribute to the confusion since society uses "substance abuse" as a blanket term for using any "substance" beyond the accepted norm of consumption.

Beyond a Generalized Substance Abuse Meaning: When Abuse Becomes Addiction

The Definition of Substance Abuse Is Complex

Posted on [October 30, 2012](#) by [admin](#)

Drug abuse and alcoholism can strike anyone from any walk of life. It's alarming to think that most people know someone who is addicted to drugs or has a life-threatening drinking problem. But many people don't stop to think what the actual definition of substance dependence really is.

We can define substance abuse as behavior that can encompass some or all of the following areas:

- Substance abuse is a pattern of behavior that involves habitual use of a substance or drug for which the user receives some kind of perceived benefit, such as feeling high or increased physical performance.
- Use of any drug beyond the supervision of a medical professional is considered substance abuse.
- Use of illicit drugs for any reason is considered substance abuse.



Because alcohol is culturally accepted in most societies around the world, many people don't consider alcoholic beverages to be drugs in the same sense that cocaine or valium are. But alcohol is a very powerful mind-altering drug that is also highly addictive for some people, so by the first definition, abusing alcohol counts as substance abuse.

When most people think of substance abuse, they think of illicit drugs like marijuana, heroin, and cocaine, and indeed, these drugs are all psychoactive or pain-killing drugs. But taking prescription drugs without a doctor's supervision—the fastest growing form of drug abuse in America—can be dangerous and lead to dependence and health problems. Generally speaking, when we define drug abuse, we're defining any use of substances that offers a perceived benefit but will really only cause health and quality of life problems.

In this sense, taking performance-enhancing drugs like anabolic steroids falls under the definition of drug abuse. But these drugs, while capable of doing great harm to otherwise

Alcohol and Substance Abuse Go Away Hand in Hand in Alcohol Substance Abuse Treatment

Posted on [October 8, 2012](#) by [admin](#)

Despite the media attention on drugs like cocaine, heroin, and marijuana, alcohol is one of the most powerful and common substances abused today, and according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, 23 million Americans abuse alcohol or are dependent on alcohol. The causes of alcoholism have been widely studied, but because the X-factor of people is involved, no one can say one particular life experience leads to alcohol addiction. Three interwoven factors play major roles: biology, age, and environment.

Addiction is sometimes linked to genetics. If alcoholism runs in the family, people can be more at risk to developing a full-blown alcohol dependence. Also, a person's environment strongly influences the habits and behavior of that person. For example, victims of sexual, physical, or emotional abuse can be more susceptible to alcoholism. Finally, although anyone can become addicted to alcohol at any age, people who start drinking early in life are prone to developing alcohol dependence over time.



One, all, or any combination of these underlying factors can cause alcohol abuse and dependence, as well as other, highly individual factors. And people suffering from alcohol dependence can easily lose control of their lives. Alcoholism is relentless, destroying families, careers, and lives. Once alcohol dependence develops, having a few drinks is no longer a good time but a necessity.

Acknowledging the Problem Is the First Step to Recovery

For some people, alcohol abuse can lead to alcohol dependence. Denial is usually the first reaction. Many alcoholics don't realize just how dependent they are. This denial is why friends and family resort to interventions—to get their loved one to admit to the problem.

Statistics for Substance Abuse Among Adults Show Up and Down Trends

Posted on [September 10, 2012](#) by [admin](#)

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) tracks nationwide trends in substance abuse among teens and adults. The NIDA's sources are surveys that are all scientifically conducted by several independent organizations, including Monitoring the Future (MTF) and the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH).

According to surveys published between 2009 and 2011, trends in drug abuse in the United States are up or down, depending on the substance in question. For example, a 2009 NSDUH survey found that about 30.2 million people had driven a car under the influence of alcohol in the previous year. That's about 12% of the population. Despite nearly 20 years of intensive public education, we still have a lot of work to do in this area.

Tracking drug abuse among teenagers is easier than tracking the same trends among adults. Unlike alcohol use, which can be tracked by public sales figures, illicit drugs are almost always hidden underground. One trick is to track emergency room admissions for drug-related health problems and drug rehab admissions.



Nearly 2 Million Americans Seek Treatment for Substance Abuse Every year

According to the Treatment Episode Date Set (TEDS), a network that tracks rehab admissions across America, 1.8 million people entered rehab in 2007. A 2008 NSDUH survey found that marijuana is the most abused drug after alcohol, used at least once per month by about 15 million Americans. Of those marijuana users, only about 250,000 were admitted to rehab that year. As high as these numbers are, they represent a steep drop from 25 to 30 million pot smokers in the late 1970s.

Cocaine use has been steadily declining since the 1990s, both for powder cocaine and crack cocaine. Because crack is cheaper to obtain and usually sold illicitly in poor communities, more people abuse crack than powder cocaine, and rehab admission figures

Good News and Bad News in the Recent Statistics for Substance Abuse

Posted on [August 31, 2012](#) by [admin](#)

Substance abuse has been a problem in the US for many years, and researchers have identified certain patterns that remain true today. Most people first use alcohol during adolescence, when their bodies are still growing and lifelong habits are forming. Those same developmental years are when some people first take illegal drugs as well. So monitoring substance abuse among teens is a fairly good barometer to predict future trends when those teenagers become adults.

President Nixon's declaration of the War on Drugs in 1971 had the opposite effect of what he intended—substance abuse was widespread among adolescents during the 1970s, and this rise in substance abuse resulted in large numbers of adults entering rehab in the 1980s and the rise in the US prison population in the last 30 years. Today, almost 1 in 100 American adults are in prison, many of them for drug-related offenses.



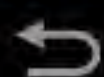
In 2010, the US government spent \$15 billion on the War on Drugs, bringing the overall total spent since 1971 to more than \$1 trillion. But substance abuse and drug use continues to thrive, albeit with some trends going up and others coming down. Nevertheless, in 2011, a UN commission declared that "The War On Drugs Has

Failed."

Substance Abuse for Teenagers Can Predict Adult Substance Abuse

For many years, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) has been tracking substance abuse in youth. A recent survey commissioned by the NIDA 2012 and conducted by the University of Michigan's Institute of Social Research revealed some good news and some bad news. Overall substance abuse among teens is slightly up, but only because of a rise in marijuana use.

First, the good news. Despite public perception and isolated media reports, many people



What Is Substance Abuse Disorder?

Posted on [August 31, 2012](#) by [admin](#)

The twin problems of drug and alcohol abuse cost society billions of dollars per year in lost productivity, not to mention the emotional toll on families and victims. The medical profession has made great strides in treating alcohol and drug dependence so that today, several tested methods of treatment exist. As our understanding increases, we hold out hope that this plague will one day disappear all together.

Health care professionals have categorized and studied the causes and types of substance abuse so that rehabilitation is considered a science today. According to the American Psychiatric Association (APA), in their standard guide *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)*, "substance use disorder" includes both "substance abuse" and "substance dependence".



"Substance" in this context of course refers to whatever drugs or alcohol a person is taking to alter his or her conscious experience or perceptions. "Substance abuse" has become a popular catch phrase for all kinds of drug abuse and dependencies.

So in popular parlance, substance abuse disorder is a behavioral pattern in which a person uses drugs or alcohol outside the social or cultural norms of the society in which the person lives. Under this definition, any use, even casual, of illegal drugs or controlled substances is considered substance abuse.

The Official Substance Abuse Meaning Does Not Include "Addiction"

But the DSM does not use the term "addiction." Subtle differences exist between the medical designations "abuse," "dependency," and "addiction," the latter generally considered to mean "compulsive substance use despite serious health and social consequences." "Dependence" is the more medical term and generally means the victim suffers from increased tolerance to the drug (needing more to get high) and physical withdrawal symptoms when the victim stops taking the drug.



A study published in the February, 2013 edition of the *American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* reports what many substance abuse therapists and parents suspected — children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are more likely to abuse marijuana and cigarettes, and they are more likely to require the services of **drug and rehab programs** than their peers.

The study tracked 600 children over a period of 8 years. By an average age of 15, 35 percent of children with ADHD reported use of one or more substances, compared to 20 percent of children without ADHD. By age 17, 13 percent of the ADHD group reported smoking marijuana, and 17 percent reported daily cigarette use, compared to 7 and 8 percent of the control group, respectively.

Perhaps most alarmingly, 10 percent of the ADHD study group met the diagnostic criteria for a substance abuse disorder, compared to only 3 percent of the control group. Alcohol use between ADHD and non-ADHD kids was approximately equal, possibly reflecting easy access to alcohol.

ADHD Medication Not Preventative

In a finding contradicting previous evidence, the study reports ADHD medication has no effect on substance abuse rates. Children on ADHD medication are as much at risk as children who didn't take medication for

Narconon President Urges that Reducing Drug Abuse and Addiction is a Matter of Life and Death for Millions

Published September 13, 2011



The latest news from the Mexican drug cartel battles makes it all too clear. Where the trafficking, sales and abuse of drugs go, death follows. On August 25, 2011, drug trafficking cartel gunmen splashed gasoline around a casino in Monterrey, Mexico, not far from the Mexico-Texas border. Visitors to the casino were told to leave but some ran upstairs or down hallways where the exit doors had been blocked. When the casino was set afire, the gunmen fled and 52 people died.

This incident of arson and homicide follows five years of turmoil and turf wars between the cartels in Mexico. Since 2006, 40,000 people have died, many of them guilty of nothing other than being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The war between the cartels results from the immense drive to get drugs into the US where there are hundreds of millions of dollars to be made in the illicit drug trade or in the illicit

distribution of prescription drugs. As drugs cross the border, then the problems start showing up in American statistics.

Narconon Helping Twelve Step Centers in Mexico to Combat the Escalating Drug Crisis

"At Narconon, we will fight addiction worldwide until we win," stated Clark Carr, president of Narconon International. Narconon is a non-profit organization dedicated to the elimination of substance abuse and addiction through effective drug rehabilitation and prevention. "We have been effectively fighting back since the day Narconon was founded in 1966. We not only have more than 120 rehabilitation and drug prevention centers around the world, we are right now working with over 100 Catholic and Protestant Twelve-Step rehabilitation programs across Mexico, providing them workshops in our First Step technology."

The Narconon First Step program offers simple but effective techniques to ease addicts off their addictive substances in a tolerable manner. In addition to vitamin and mineral drinks, the recovering addict receives re-orienting and calming exercises and practices simple communication skills. The result is a calm, oriented recovering addict – a far cry from agonizing "cold turkey" withdrawals (that sometimes use restraints to keep a person from hurting himself.)

Once the recovering addict is through withdrawal, he is focused and ready to address the causes of his addiction in preparation for leading a drug-free life in the future, and his Twelve Step program kicks into higher gear. Thus Narconon International is offering this free training program not as a "replacement", but as a *complementary* service to help existing Twelve Step programs improve their results. "Working together," says Carr, "We can save tens of thousands more lives. That is our common humanitarian purpose."



In the US, Tens of Thousands Die from Drug and Alcohol Abuse but Across the World, it's Millions

And what is the situation in the United States? Every year, more

More American Teens Getting Hooked On Heroin

Written by Christina Davis on Monday Jan 7, 2013

Email Print Share

Once associated almost exclusively with urban areas, **heroin** use has been spreading rapidly throughout the U.S. among teens in the suburbs, and even in rural areas.

Increasing Abuse And Overdoses

According to the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration**, more American teens are dying from heroin than ever before.

In 2009, 510 young people between 15 and 24 years old died from heroin overdoses, compared to only 198 in 1999. Heroin use among teens between 12 and 17 years old has grown 80 percent since 2002, and the number of teens in treatment for heroin addiction has likewise soared. Ninety percent of teens addicted to heroin are White.

An Underappreciated Threat

Many sheltered parents and kids in the suburbs do not realize how prevalent heroin has become, or how addictive and lethal the drug is—until it is too late.

After retiring from the police force, former Chicago Police Captain John Roberts moved to the suburbs, believing it would be a safer place to raise a family. He never imagined that five years after moving, his son would die of a heroin overdose at age 19. In 2010, Roberts founded the **Heroin Epidemic Relief Organization** to help other families whose children are struggling with heroin addiction, and to increase awareness of the problem.

Connection With Prescription Drug Abuse

Many teens **switch to heroin** after becoming addicted to prescription painkillers like Oxycodone. Compared to **prescription** pills, heroin provides a stronger high and is much cheaper and easier to buy on the street.

Prescription drug abuse among young adults is even more widespread than heroin abuse; in fact, in a recent survey carried out by the University of Michigan, one out of



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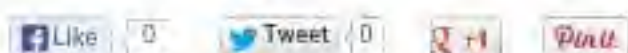


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How to Spot a Killer: Inside the Mind of a Killer



In 1998, a federal law was passed by the United States Congress, entitled *The Protection of Children from Sexual Predator Act of 1998* which included a possible official definition of a serial killer as one who commits "a series of three or more killings, not less than one of which was committed within the United States, having common characteristics such as to suggest the reasonable possibility that the crimes were committed by the same actor or actors." But in no way does that even come close to identifying the complex brain and thought patterns that define a serial killer.

According to research conducted by a criminologist at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, serial killers may be to blame for as many as 10 times the amount of murders in the United States that they are charged with. While some may be caught and linked to seven different deaths, for example, there may be dozens more that have occurred over time that have gone unnoticed or fallen into cold case files. Hoards of missing people may have fallen at the hands of serial killers. There is little way of knowing how many victims a serial killer has under their belt unless they admit to it or the evidence is unearthed. When missing people are factored into United States murder count statistics, the number of serial killer victims per year falls around 182 to 1,832 people, according to Kenna Quinet, associate professor in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at IUPUI.

Raised to Kill

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's website notes that serial killers are considered by most neurobiologists to be the outcome of many factors that occur throughout the killer's lifetime. For example, in childhood, children are taught to "interact, negotiate, and compromise" with other children. If they fail to develop these abilities, they may begin to show signs of violence and lack of remorse even in their youth, both of which are strong indicators for criminal behavior. The cycle of violence grows over time. Serial killers may hate women because they didn't have a good relationship with their mother. They may sexually abuse children as a result of being sexually abused as a child themselves. There are hundreds of psychological motives for serial killers to grapple onto.

Other indicators may include abusing animals. The [American Humane Association](#) has some shocking statistics on the link between animal abuse and domestic violence. According to their website, 71% of pet-owning women entering women's shelters reported that their abuser had harmed, killed, or threatened family pets for revenge or to psychologically control victims with another 32% of the women reporting that their children had hurt or killed animals. A community policy dispatch newsletter drafted by the [Community Oriented Policing Services](#) relays the haunting words of a 16-year-old boy who was later convicted of killing his own mother, "I made my first kill today. It was a loved one...I'll never forget the howl she made. It sounded almost human...I'll never forget the sound of her bones breaking under my might. I hit her so hard I knocked the fur off her neck...It was true beauty." Killing and abusing animals seems to be the training wheels serial killers need to later perfect killing a human.



Some postulate that children that turn into serial killers later in life have a higher prevalence for wetting the bed. They may be bullied as children, awkward and alienated from their peers. As a gateway to more serious crime, they may partake in vandalism, theft, or fraud. They may be described as highly intelligent, even if they are undereducated. As they mature, they may have trouble securing a job. Yet, there are also serial killers that bare none of these characteristics. For example, [Ted Bundy](#) was considered a well-adjusted and even likeable man. He grew up as a popular child to both his peers and elders, gained a degree in psychology and attended law school, had multiple normal relationships with women throughout his life, worked as a government-hired crime consultant, and was even considered by his friends to be a worthy candidate for a political figure. Yet, the same man who seemed so amicable brutally murdered and raped 20 women, showing us that serial killers don't always fit the profile.

Types and Motives of Serial Killers

Holmes and DeBurger's *Model of Serial Killers* identifies four models of a serial killer. The visionary killer, mission killer, hedonistic killer, and power and control killer. The visionary killer is focused mainly on the act of killing





american...



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Female serial killers - Mirror Online

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Female serial **killers** - Mirror Online

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GROUPS

Infamous Serial Killers.

overview

video

See all Infamous Serial Killers (35)

Many of the most horrifying acts of violence are committed by serial killers. Always looking for next victim, these murderers kill again and again, never fully satisfied by their bloody deeds. Their twisted motivations—and even more twisted techniques—land the people in this group among the most frightening criminals in history.

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Gary Ridgway - Mini Biography

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QUICK FACTS

NAME: Aileen Wuornos
OCCUPATION: Serial Killer
BIRTH DATE: [February 29, 1956](#)
DEATH DATE: [October 09, 2002](#)
PLACE OF BIRTH: Rochester, [Michigan](#)
PLACE OF DEATH: Florida State Prison, Florida

BEST KNOWN FOR

An abused child who later earned her living as a sex worker, Aileen Wuornos was found guilty of killing six men and was later executed in a Florida prison.

Aileen Wuornos - Meeting Tyria Moore

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Synopsis

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Born on February 29, 1956, in Rochester, Michigan, Aileen Wuornos was sexually abused and thrown out of her home as a teen. She made a living as a sex worker on Florida's highways, and in 1989, she killed a man who'd picked her up. She went on to kill five other men and was eventually caught, convicted and placed on death row. Though her sanity was questioned, Wuornos was executed by lethal injection in 2002.

Early Life

Aileen Carol Wuornos was born on February 29, 1956, in Rochester, Michigan. Wuornos's childhood was a

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- [Synopsis](#)
- [Early Life](#)
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VIDEOS





GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION. \$2,000 REWARD

State of Kansas, Executive Department.

WHEREAS, several atrocious murders have been recently committed in Labette County, Kansas, under circumstances which fasten, beyond doubt, the commissions of these crimes upon a family known as the "Bender family," consisting of

JOHN BENDER, about 60 years of age, five feet eight or nine inches in height, German, speaks but little English, dark complexion, no whiskers, and sparsely built;

MRS. BENDER, about 50 years of age, rather heavy set, blue eyes, brown hair, German, speaks broken English;

JOHN BENDER, Jr., alias John Gebardt, five feet eight or nine inches in height, slightly built, gray eyes with brownish tint, brown hair, light moustache, no whiskers, about 27 years of age, speaks English with German accent;

KATE BENDER, about 24 years of age, dark hair and eyes, good looking, well formed, rather bold in appearance, fluent talker, speaks good English with very little German accent;

AND WHEREAS said persons are at large and fugitives

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Many of the most horrifying acts of violence are committed by serial killers. Always looking for next victim, these murderers kill again and again, never fully satisfied by their bloody deeds. Their twisted motivations—and even more twisted techniques—land the people in this group among the most frightening criminals in history.

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Gary Ridgway - Mini Biography

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Browse our list of serial killers who continue to fascinate and horrify us.

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Ted Bundy.

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Aileen Wuornos.



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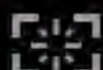
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Jeffrey Dahmer
H.H. Holmes
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